



INOUE-Battle
in the Usually
Daze.

異能バトル 日常系のなで

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ill. 029
Oniku



Inou-Battle wa Nichijou-kei no Naka de

vol.1

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INOUE BATTLER HA NICHIIYOUKEI NO
KOUTA PRESENTS
NATION 029★★★





全属性を
掌握する幼馴染み
櫛川鳩子
くしかわはこ

ありのままの姿へ還す文芸部部长
高梨彩弓
たかなしさゆみ

万物を創造する小学4年生
姫木千冬
ひめぎきちふ

命の天秤は
覚醒してしまった者の葛藤
だから、俺達は好きなようにすることにした。



Chapter 1: I've Gained a Superpower

Part 1

“GUH, AAAAAAAAAAH!”

In the middle of a dark closed space, I am alone, holding my right arm.

Holding it to suppress it.

“GUUH! GAAAH!”

I can only make a beast-like groan. I desperately grab on to my rampaging right arm with my barely controllable left arm, with the nails biting into it.

I am desperately trying to suppress the 「Power」 that is trying to get out from me.

“C, Cease it... You bastard!”

It is like I am drowning in a dark feeling. A dark voice from deep within. Destroy, destroy everything. My heart is filled with an urge to cause destruction.

The personality known as me is being overwritten.

Eaten by its own power.

A purgatory hellfire capable of burning even God.

Its name is — «Dark and Dark黒焰».

“UOOOOOOH!”

“You are being kinda loud.”

The electricity in the clubroom was suddenly turned on.

The lamps shone, our literature clubroom was made clear.

There is a well-used locker and a relatively new replacement table that was bought last year. There is also a huge steel shelf with a countless number of books narrowly lined up side-by-side that was given (forced on) to us from our

upperclassmen.

“I could hear you from outside the room. What are you do... It’s only you here Andou?”

“Sta, Stay back Kanzaki Tomoyo... Nay! «Closed Clock永遠»!”

“‘Nay’ is... And also, stop calling me by that name.”

“Hurry up and flee from here! I... I won’t be able to stay myself much longer!”

“...”

Tomoyo was staring at me with contempt as I was crouching on the floor while holding my right arm.

Staring at a pitiful person.

“...Tch. Maaan”

The fun had disappeared, so I got up. While scratching my head with my right arm (it wasn’t actually aching), I stared back at the girl who was staring at me with a cold gaze.

Kanzaki Tomoyo.

Her hair reaches down to about the shoulders, hanging sparsely around the collar of her blazer. She has a neat and pretty face, but because of her rather harsh look and grumpy-looking lips, you get a strong-willed impression from her.

Well, she has a strong will at least.

Same as with me, she is a member of this literature club.

“You really don’t know how to play along. Like, not at all.”

“What is with that response? Could you not make it look like I am the one in the wrong? No matter how you look at it, you are the one being weird. Just what were you doing here in the dark?”

“My right arm was aching and my dark side was awakening.”

“Ah, I got it, it was just your usual make-believe.”

“Call it ‘simulation’, not ‘make-believe’! How do you plan to fight your inner

self when the day comes where your arm begins to ache?”

“I won’t be fighting, and it won’t be aching. Really, I don’t know how you can be in full chuuni mode every day without getting tired of it.”

She coldly brushed off my passionate persuasion and sat down at the table. She is treating me coldly as usual.

She is always calling me “chuuni” and making fun of me. Well, a tolerant guy like me wouldn’t get mad over something like that. Besides, someday she will be attacked by “them” and when that time comes, my dark side will play an active role. Kuku.



“Really. Even though you bear the last name ‘Kanzaki’, you still don’t understand my view of the world.”

“Ha? Hey you, stop making fun of other people’s name.”

“I wasn’t making fun of it! On the contrary, you could say I am jealous.”

“That’s disgusting!”

The name “Kanzaki” is way too cool. It’s God! God! If you have a name with God in it, you have already won at life.^[1]

“Kanzaki” would place within the top 5 of my list of cool last names.

On the other hand, mine is... “Andou”. Humph. It’s ok. It’s just a temporary name.

“It’s your fault that I’ve begun to hate my last name a little.”

Tomoyo said that with an annoyed look. Since I had been standing by myself the whole time, I sat down on a folding chair and faced her.

“And also, Andou.”

She rested her chin on her hand while looking at me with a serious look.

“If you don’t keep your chuuni simulation stuff under control, you’ll turn into the boy who cried wolf. In the 1 in 10 000 chance that something does happen, it would be bad if no one believes you. We are all now part of that world after all.”

“...Hmph. I know. That’s the reason for these simulations.”

“Ha... You don’t get it...”

She dropped her shoulders disappointed. But I am well aware of what she wanted to say.

We, who have awakened to supernatural powers for real, are no longer normal people.

Half a year ago —

All of us in the literature club lost consciousness when a mysterious light

suddenly filled the club room.

And when we regained our consciousness, all five of us could use supernatural powers.

It was at that time that I awakened to my «Dark and Dark黒焰».

Obviously, we all fell into great confusion. Suddenly awakening to some unexplainable powers. Who could blame us?

What could have been responsible for awakening us to these powers? Even now, we don't know.

Could a supernatural entity worthy of being called a god have granted them to us? Or could it be that, there was some trigger that awakened these sleeping powers within us?

But, whatever the reason may be, I was honestly — happy.

I have always wanted to set foot into an extraordinary world. I was confused. I was scared. But I was far more rejoiced.

Yahoo!

Isn't it super awesome to be able to use supernatural powers?

Day after day, I have dreamt of having supernatural powers, and now, I finally have one.

Is there any guy who wouldn't get excited about this? The answer is nope!

Thus, we distanced ourselves from our everyday life and set foot onto a world of supernatural battles — “— which we never did.”

Tomoyo said this with a sigh mixed in while sipping tea from her cup.

“...Guess so, huuuuh.”

I also drank my tea in the same way while making a deep sigh.

Yes.

Admittedly, ever since we awakened to our supernatural powers, nothing has happened.

Nothing at all.

At first, we lived in fear of not knowing what would happen from now on. But, after a month had passed, the atmosphere became like “Hey, nothing has happened has it?”

It went on like this, months passed and we reach the present time.

We, who have awakened to supernatural powers, reached the conclusion that nothing will be happening. As a result, we lead a very normal everyday life.

“Sure wish something would happen.”

“Just give it up already. Hoping won’t help. We have waited half a year and still nothing.”

“No no. I bet that, in order to decide who the Mamodo king will be, 100 kids from the mamodo world will start a battle.”

“Nothing out of Zatch will happen.”

“Then, people from around the world who, similar to us, awaken to supernatural powers will be drawn to each other and have bizarre battles.”

“Things out of Jojo won’t happen either.”

“...It’s been on my mind for a while, but you are a pretty big otaku.”

I brought up a deep topic. It came unexpectedly as well.

“Don’t call me otaku. My brother likes shounen manga, so I just read them since we have them.”

Hmph.

She denies being an otaku like this every time I point it out, but I am 100% sure she is an otaku. I mean, if you can understand the meaning of chuuni, you are already an otaku right?

And, at this point of the conversation, I had run out of tea. I got up from my chair and went to the teapot in the corner of the room.

“Andou. While you are at it, make some for me too.”

“Hm?”

I turned around at her words. At that moment, my hand accidentally came in

contact with the tea container. The green tube got knocked over and was falling off the table. Since the lid was also open, I was about to witness a big disaster. And even though I just bought the tea three days ago — “Geez. Be more careful.”

And.

At the next moment, literally the next moment, Tomoyo, who was supposed to be sitting on her chair, appeared in front of me in an instant. The tea container I knocked over was being held in her hand.

I could not perceive her movement at all.

A movement which could not even be captured on video.

“...Did you just use your «Closed Clock永遠»?”

«Closed Clock永遠»

Kanzaki Tomoyo — She can manipulate time. While she can’t turn back time, she can accelerate, stop, slow down and fast forward it at will.

What probably just occurred is that, when she saw me knock over the tea, she instantly stopped time, casually got up from her chair and caught the tea container.

It’s a very basic explanation. It is a power that is like “The World”^[2] and “Clock Up”^[3] combined.

“...Well, yeah, I did use it, but could you do something about that chuuni naming?”

Tomoyo said this with an annoyed look when we got back to the table after having brewed more tea.

I am the one who has been coming up with all the names for all the members’ superpowers. Everyone were like “It’s not like we need a name for our superpowers”, but I firmly opposed that kind of thinking and gave everyone’s superpowers wonderful names as presents.

Honestly... All of them are the same...

They don’t understand the importance of having a name for your superpower

in a supernatural battle.

Well, since I was the one who named them, half of their powers are essentially mine.

“The relation between the characters and the readings makes no sense in Japanese.”

“Hmph. If you have a problem with it, why don’t you name it yourself? If it makes more sense than mine, I’ll approve it.”

“It’s not like I need your approval.”

“Everyone else seems fine with the names I gave them. You are the only one complaining.”

“...It’s not that they are fine with it. It’s just that coming up with a name on our own would be painful, so we have just been putting up with the chuuni ones you came up with.”

Tomoyo is such a tsundere.

She just can’t be honest.

“By the way, your finishing line is ‘Be plunged into the valleys of time and forever wander around’.”

“I don’t need something like that!”

“Fufu. In other words, you don’t really care about your own power and, since it was such a long time ago, want to see mine instead?”

“I didn’t say that! You just want to show off yours don’t you!”

“Heheh. So be it. If you insist that much, feast your eyes on my «Dark and Dark黒焰»!”

By the way, it’s not “I’ll show you”, it’s “feast your eyes on”. It’s an important point.^[4]

I relaxedly clad myself in an atmosphere fit only for a king while standing up. Tomoyo had an extremely annoyed face, but that didn’t bother me.

I removed the sealing shackles equipped to my right hand.

“Ehm. You have never worn that glove with “seal” written on it before have you? You obviously just took it out of your pocket and equipped it.”

“I am the true ruler of all things chaotic! I beseech thee, chaotic hellfire slumbering within this body, born from the chaotic darkness! Devour mine flesh! Nourish on mine soul! The time is right, manifest thyself in this chaotic age!”

“The incantation is too long! And there is too much ‘chaotic’ in it.”

“<

“You’re stopping there?! You might as well have finished saying everything after all that!”

Tomoyo leant forward and retorted, but I sat down on my chair broken-hearted. I see... Maybe my “Seal removal incantation” should only have up to two “chaotic” in it after all.

“You are picky about the dumbest things.”

“Call it being eager to improve myself.”

“You are fundamentally putting your efforts in the wrong things. Sigh... On the bright side, your power really seems to be making all your dreams come true.”

“Hmph, sure.”

Tomoyo was probably saying that sarcastically, but, in spite of that, I nodded exaggeratedly, and then I held up my hand and activated my power.

«Dark and Dark黒焰»

A black flame appeared from my right hand. Its burning fire spread itself throughout my palm, dancing like it is refusing to stay in one form.

While it is holy in nature, it is also dyed deep in sin. This contradictory aura is contained in this fire... is what it feels like.

A flame of the dark that burns as if scorching that very darkness itself.

So cool! This black flame is so cool! I, who lit this black flame, am so cool!

“«Dark and Dark黒焰». All it does is produce a black flame from your body. This is like the most useless power ever.”

As if to crush my dreams, Tomoyo coldly pointed that out.

That's right. My power is just being able to bring out a black flame. And also, this flame is not even hot and therefore, its offensive power is nil. It's as if it was illusionary, not even able to burn a newspaper.

Specifically, you could describe its temperature as a day where you would say "It's a little bit warm today isn't it?"

In reality, the hottest fire is a white fire, but in manga and anime, a black flame exceeding a white flame as the strongest flame is common fact.

But the hotness of my «Dark and Dark黒焰» is inferior even to a match.

...It really is a useless power, but I don't care much.

Because, it's cool!

"— Ah! Damn it! I activated my power without chanting my seal removal incantation!"

"Not like it matters anyway!"

"That won't do! If I leave out my seal removal incantation, I will... uuh... uhm... yes, my existence will be erased!"

"You obviously thought that out just now didn't you!"

Damn it! I made a blunder there. «Dark and Dark黒焰» can't be activated without the seal removal incantation. At least that is the setting I am going with.

No. That just now didn't happen. It does not count.

"Also Tomoyo. Don't just retort to everything. Would it kill you to play along a little? Follow the others' example."

"How about no? And the others don't play along with your chuuni antics either."

"That's not true. The others generally play along with it."

"Hmm. Then, let's try it and see."

She challenged me with a glare.

“Interesting.”

I glared back and said those words with the edges of my mouth raised.

Part 2

And with that said, let the experiment start.

Tomoyo hid near the door, while I was on standby in the middle of the clubroom.

If any of the other members are coming towards the clubroom, Tomoyo will give me the signal, I will do the “My arm is aching and my dark personality is awakening” simulation I did before and we will watch their reactions. This is our experiment.

The other members had various reasons for being late, but they should be coming anytime soon.

After a few minutes had passed, Tomoyo mouthed the words “Someone is coming” to me. I made the same “GUH, AAAAAAAAH!” as I did earlier.

“Yoo-hoo! I ran a bit late because I was on cleaning duty and — Juu-kun?!”

After energetically opening the door and greeting everyone with a smile, Hatoko’s expression was instantly filled with surprise.

She panicked and hurried to my side.

“Wh-Wh-Wh-What’s the matter, Juu-kun? Are you okay? Do you have a tummy ache? Maybe it’s appendicitis?! Is it appendicitis?!”

“Sta, Stay back, Ha, Hatoko... Nay! «Over Element五帝»!”

“Over...? You’re wrong. I’m Hatoko.”

“GUH, AAAAAAH! My right arm!!”

“Right arm?! Your right arm has appendicitis?!”

“I don’t have appendicitis. There is no such thing as appendicitis in your right arm. And I don’t have any problems with my internal organs. Uguaah!”

“Are you okay Juu-kun? Just hang on! I am calling an ambulance right now!”

“Don’t do that! This joke is going too far — I mean, Japan’s medical treatment won’t be able to do anything about this.”

“Then, how about treatment from outside Japan? Maybe organ transplantation? Do you need an appendix transplantation?”

“No. An appendix transplantation won’t help. Urgh... So hot... My body is burning. Not literally, but from inside.”^[5]

“You feel hot?! Okay, just wait a bit.”

After saying that, she raised both her hands. And then, a floating ball of water appeared above her head. By using her power, she manipulated the humidity of the air and controlled it.

Kushikawa Hatoko — «Over Element五帝»

“No! Wait! Hatoko...!”

“There!”

I returned to my normal self and stood there as the ball of water was dropped on me. “Gurglurglruglr”. I tried struggling my way out of the water prison I have been locked in, with no effect.

Guh! The water got into my nose!

“Alright. That’s enough.”

And.

At the next moment — I was grabbed by Tomoyo and dragged out of the water prison. Because she could manipulate time, she did it all in an instant.

“To, Tomoyo. Thank you sooo much. It was sooo scary. I thought I was going to drown.”

“Don’t suddenly act like a weakling! Hey! Stay away from me! You are wet! Hatoko! Hurry up and dry up this idiot! And turn off that ball of water.”

As Tomoyo yelled out that, Hatoko turned off the ball of water and dried up my clothes and hair and such. By manipulating the humidity, the air was returned to normal once more.

After that, we explained the situation to Hatoko.

“Ooooh. So Juu-kun was just playing pretend again. You really startled me.”

“It’s not pretending. It’s a simulation.”

“Sim, simula...? Yep. Pretending.”

The carefree Hatoko. Is pretty bad when it comes to hard words in English.
Kushikawa Hatoko.

With gentle eyes and a talkative mouth. She has a warm and comfortable atmosphere. She gives off the image that she is always smiling.

She is a member of the literature club and my childhood friend. Because our homes are in the same neighborhood, we have been going to the same school since elementary school. You could say we have an inseparable bond.

I joined the literature club because Hatoko invited me.

In this high school, you are obliged to join a club. Since I didn’t know which culture-related club to join (a sports club would be impossible for me), I just went along with Hatoko’s invitation without thinking much about it.

“Hatoko. «Over Element五帝» is too demonic a superpower for you. I recall prohibiting you from using it without my permission.”

“Oh right, I do remember you saying that. I completely forgot.”

“Good. As long as you understand. Be careful from here on.”

“Yep. I understand. Umm, O... What was it again?”

“«Over Element五帝». Don’t even dream about forgetting it.”

“Yep. I won’t forget even in a dream~.”

...No, you got the meaning wrong.^[6] Well, whatever.

«Over Element五帝»

Kushikawa Hatoko can control the five elements earth, water, fire, wind and light as she will.

The controlling of the humidity in the air was merely one end of her power.

Ruptured land, raging rapids, crimson hellfire, fierce storms, holy light.

All of that in her hands.

...Come on, five is a bit too many don't you think? It's cheating. I, who can only bring out one black flame, got nothing compared to that.

My power is not something an elementary schooler would think of when they talk about what would be strongest superpower.

Seriously, share some of it with me.

Furthermore, she can bring out flames with far higher offensive power than mine.

"Andou. Just because it's similar to your superpower doesn't mean you should prohibit her from using it."

"Y-You idiot. They are not similar at all. It doesn't bother me either."

"Well, just admit it. Your power is just a cheap version of hers. It's just a flame with zero offensive power."

"I wonder why Juu-kun's power is so dull~."

Tomoyo's sarcasm and Hatoko's innocent words were stabbing my heart.

Damn. I'll remember this. I'll leave you all speechless when the time comes where my power evolves and saves us from a pinch.

By the way, "Juu-kun" refers to me.

My first name is — Jurai. It's an exceedingly cool name. That's why I want everyone to start calling me by my first name, but it's not going too well.

"Tomoyo. Isn't it time you started calling me by my first name?"

"Don't want to. Because, your first name is hard to pronounce. Andou works fine."

And there you have it.

Hatoko has always called me "Juu-kun", so that's a bit hard to change.

"Even so, your name, Jurai, is a pretty unique name isn't it? What is its origin?"

"Kuku. A good question. If you insist that much, let me tell you. But, don't

regret it later. There are not many who have heard the true meaning behind my true name and lived to...”

“You see... Juu-kun was actually scheduled to be born in June and his name would have been ‘Jun’. But, the schedule was delayed to July and that’s why it became ‘Jurai’ instead. Isn’t that right, Juu-kun?”

“Aah, I see. «JunJune» and «JuraiJuly»”

“His name means ‘Longevity is coming’.^[7] It’s a pretty fortune-filled name.”

“...”

Damn you Hatoko. Saying unnecessary things.

My true name is “Guiltia Sin Jurai”.

The name of my power may be «Dark and Dark黒焰», but it is actually a cursed lightning.^[8] Since ancient times, black flames have been known as accursed lightnings and have been loathed in the worlds of hell.

“Guiltia” derives from “guilty”, meaning “sinful”. “Sin” derives from an alternate reading of the Japanese character for God.^[9] Furthermore, “Sin” is pronounced the same as the English “sin”, giving it a double meaning.

That is to say, I naturally carry two times as much sin.

...Being sinful makes me so cool.

Ah~, I really atone for it.

“So what you are saying is, just because you have a slightly unique name, which you didn’t even choose yourself, you made it mean a lot of other things it didn’t and you became a chuuni.”

Tomoyo looked at me with a pitying look. A gaze as cold as a blizzard. I averted my eyes. And then Hatoko cut in.

“By the way, are we still playing pretend?”

In response to those words, Tomoyo and I looked at each other. “Isn’t this enough already?” is what I got from her eyes.

She had completely gotten tired of this.

Hmph. Well, since it's a good opportunity, I might as well try it on the remaining two.

Part 3

Tomoyo and Hatoko hid near the door, while I was on standby in the middle of the room.

After a few minutes, a new member visited us.

But it wasn't through the door. As always, she appeared — by creating space.

Through the warped space, a girl with a delicate atmosphere around her could be seen. With a well-shaped face and a petite body, you get the impression of a western doll. She was holding her beloved squirrel plush-doll in her small hands.

"GUH, AAAAAAAAAAH!"

I pushed down my right arm the same way I did before.

"What's wrong, andou?"

The little girl Chifuyu-chan curiously said that while looking down at me with emotionless eyes.

"S-Stay back! Don't come any closer, Chifuyu-chan!"

"Okay."

She indifferently said that, let me be, walked away and sat down on her seat which had her favorite cushion laid out on it.

"Uguaaaah! Don't come any closer! Forget about me!"

"I said okay."

"Don't come any closer no matter what!"

"You're so persistent."

She indifferently said that in a persistent manner.

Wait a minute. That's not right.

“Uguh... Maybe, just maybe... By ‘Stay back!’, I mean ‘I want you to come here’...”

When I murmured that second part, Chifuyu-chan tilted her head stupefied.

“You see, when the protagonist is about to be devoured by the dark forces, he will scream ‘Stay back!’ to not get his comrades involved as well, but they will certainly come to him anyway. That’s what comrades do. If they really didn’t come, the protagonist would probably get irritated... Uguaaaah!”

“It’s too complicated and I can’t understand what you are saying.”

“You see, this situation is like what a comedian means when he says ‘Absolutely do not press this button’ when doing the opening to a sketch. I actually want you to come over here, but I can’t say that as the protagonist... Guaaaah...”

“andou... Is your head okay?”

“It’s not my head, it’s my right arm...”

“Alright. That’s enough.”

Tomoyo and Hatoko revealed themselves from the corner of the room. Tomoyo spiritlessly clapped her hands and gave a signal saying it was over. She then spoke to Chifuyu-chan with a friendly voice.

“Sorry about that, Chifuyu-chan. You had to play along with that dummy.”

“No problem. andou is always weird.”

“You’re so good, Chifuyu-chan. Playing along with Juu-kun and such. Good girl.”

As Hatoko stroke her head, she smiled a little while looking happy.

Himeki Chifuyu.

She is not a student in this school. She is a fourth grader at a nearby elementary school. She is the club adviser Satomi-sensei’s niece. Previously, she came here once in a while to play.

Half a year ago, the day we awakened to supernatural powers, she had, by chance, come to our literature club to play. At that time, she awakened to

supernatural powers together with us. Since then, the times we have been together have been many and she always comes here to play after school.

There is some distance between here and her elementary school, but since she has «World Create創世», the walking distance doesn't matter at all.

“Move a little. Tomoyo. Hatoko. I'm sleepy so I'm going to bed.”

The two girls got up from their chairs and walked to the corner of the room.

Chifuyu-chan held up her hand.

And with only that, a luxurious bed appeared.

Being frilly here and there, it was a bed fit for a princess. There were many plush-dolls on the bed. She went into the bed, hugging the squirrel plush-doll (By the way, its name seems to be 'Lissun'. A unique naming sense I must say) she has been holding all the time and went to sleep.

Her sleeping face is like that of an angel.

«World Create創世»

Himeki Chifuyu's power is that of creation. Any sort of material or even space can be created as long as she wills it.

The space distortion from before was a “gate” for warping. Since she can freely create space, she is able to travel around via warping.

She can basically create anything. And if she calls upon the planet's memory, it seems like she would be able to create anything, even things she hasn't seen for herself.

...What in the world is planet's memory? That is the feeling you get, but that is something only Chifuyu-chan would know.

“Isn't it about time you understand, Andou?”

Tomoyo said that triumphantly.

“No one is going to seriously play along with you.”

At the sight of that triumphant satisfaction, I grind my teeth. Damn it. Having come this far, I can't back down now.

“It’s too soon to give up, Tomoyo! There is still «Root of Origin始原» left.”

Part 4

Once again, the three others hid in the corner of this room (Chifuyu-chan was still sleeping, so we let her be). I stood in the middle of the room, preparing myself.

I’m feeling it.



The atmosphere filled with mana, life force, aura, ki and things alike.

This time, it will be different.

Because this time, Chifuyu-chan has, with her «World Create創世», made the room completely soundproof. Before, I were not allowed to be too loud.

I am not an idiot who is a nuisance to others. I am a person who bears time, place and occasion in mind.

Buuut.

Now that I have asked Chifuyu-chan to make this room soundproof before going to sleep, I have nothing to fear.

No matter how loud I am, it won't be heard from outside.

In other words, no matter how much my right arm aches, it won't be a problem.

“Kuku. My arm is roaring. No, maybe I'm mistaking it for aching?”

...In the corner of the room, Tomoyo and Hatoko are whispering while looking at me, not caring much. Well, that's fine. If you care, you lose.

And, after having completely lost interest in this, Tomoyo waved with her hand, signaling to me that it is time. I've been waiting for this!

I screamed with all my might!

“UGAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!”

“SHUT UP!”

The moment the door opened, a woman flew forward to me and grabbed my aching right arm. I said something like “Stop it! You will regret it if you touch my arm”, but shortly after, she splendidly threw me over her shoulder.

“Really! What is it now, Andou-kun? Suddenly making such a weird scream! Don't be a nuisance to others!”

This room is soundproofed, so it's okay, is what I wanted to say, but I couldn't and instead, I let out a “Uguoooh...” while holding my back. This time, it's not a

fake scream, but a real one.

I was lying on the floor with cramps and twitching, while our club president, Takanashi Sayumi-san looked down on me and was angry.

“You never know how to control yourself. Only little kids are allowed to be rowdy and get away with it.”

Takanashi Sayumi.

It is not the popular last name “Takanashi” that has been recently appearing in mangas and light novels because of it being unusual and interesting, but the “Takanashi” which means “Expensive pear”.^[10]

She has glossy hair and the face of a grown-up. In combination with a good style, she emits an atmosphere of an adult. Her posture and her polite way of talking don’t give off a shard of vulgarity, but show her intellect instead.

She is a third grader, one year above me and the club president of this literature club. She is usually pretty soft, but she gets angry easily, making her scary.

She has been practicing Judo, Aikido and such things with her father since she was a child and mastered the power called the “Whip of Love”. Though the shoulder throw she used on me just now could be withstood even by someone like me, who knows nothing about Judo.

Well, it doesn’t change the fact that it still hurts.

“Y-you’re wrong, Sayumi-san... Just now, my right hand was aching.”

“Then it should be ok if I mark it out for you.”

“Mark it... No, that’s not it. My other personality...”

“What relation does that personality and your right arm have?”

“No, that’s thinking a bit deep... No, it’s a casual relation...”

“Then clearly explain this relation. If it is convincing enough, i’ll apologize.”

“...Sorry. There is no relation.”

Standing firmly while staring at me, I lost to her pressure and said that. This is bad. This is Sayumi-san’s scolding mode. In front of her overwhelming aura, I

reflexively ended up sitting in a straight up posture.



“Andou-kun. Do plan to be a chuuni forever? Are you not already a high school second-grader?”

“No, it’s not like I am a chuuni. So, I would appreciate it if you stopped making me out as one...”

“...” A silent pressure.

“...No, I’m sorry. I am a chuuni.”

“Really... Oh, and I heard from Satomi-sensei. Andou-kun. When she warned you about not paying attention in class, you answered back with ‘But can’t you hear it, miss? The voice of the wind calling.’, which made her punch you.”

“Guh!”

“There was also that time where you acted strangely and said ‘What?! Can’t you see it, miss?!’.”

This is bad.

Sayumi-san is an honor student. She being all cute and such around Satomi-sensei = she gets to hear all those stories.

“And that time where you yelled ‘This is bad! Everybody, take cover!’ and hid under your table.”

That time, not even one person followed me. I felt so lonely.

“And that time where you said ‘Hooh? You dare give me orders?’ and almost got killed.”

...Just thinking about the punch Satomi-sensei gave me that time sends a chill up my spine.

“And that time where you said ‘Oh, I’m sorry, Mommy’ and everyone just laughed their sides off at you.”

“That has nothing to do with being a chuuni!”

She lectured me in that way.

“Hatoko. Has Andou always been like this? Even like during class?”

“Yes. He has always been like this. Ah, but, he is usually obedient in front of a scary person. In high school, it looks like he only fools around in Satomi-sensei’s classes.”

“...You are really an idiot. No common sense at all.”

While saying sad things, Tomoyo and Hatoko got out from the corner of the room.

“Oh, Tomoyo-san, Hatoko-san. And also, Chifuyu-san.”

Tomoyo briefly explained the situation. After hearing it, Sayumi-san said “Well, I did think it was something like that anyway.” while being a little bit surprised.

“Ugh. My back is killing me. Could you use your «Root of Origin始原» to fix it up, Sayumi-san?”

“No, you will have to endure it like a man. I threw you in a way that wouldn’t cause any serious injuries.”

While I was rubbing my back and asking her, she flatly declined.

«Root of Origin始原»

Takanashi Sayumi — Is able to return things to their original form.

It doesn’t matter if it’s a living creature or an inanimate object. Someone could be wounded, ill or have a wrecked body. It would only take her a moment to return them to their “original form”.

An easier explanation could be to think of it as “Crazy Diamond”^[11] or Inoue Orihime’s “Phenomena Rejection”^[12]. Something like that.

Anyway, all five members have now been assembled.

«Dark and Dark黒焰» Jurai Andou.

«Closed Clock永遠» Tomoyo Kanzaki.

«Over Element五帝» Hatoko Kushikawa.

«World Create創世» Chifuyu Himeki.

«Root of Origin始原» Sayumi Takanashi.

“...All members have been assembled. We are the literature club... No, it’s more fitting to call us «The SoldierThe Chosen Ones»”.

“More fitting my ass! Don’t come up with a setting as if it had already been decided long ago!”

Tomoyo denied it with all her might. Hmph. Oh well. «The SoldierThe Chosen Ones» lacks a twist and isn’t really good enough according to my standards anyway.

After being so noisy...

“Mmmm... You’re all too loud. I can’t sleep.”

Chifuyu-chan rubbed her eyes with both her hands while getting up from the bed.

“Our bad, Chifuyu-chan. That dummy Andou was being noisy.”

“Sorry. Juu-kun is just really excited.”

“I apologize. Andou-kun got too riled up.”

Hey! Everything is my fault? Well, I think so too actually.

But, I, Jurai... no, Guiltia Sin Jurai, am a grown up. You think I would be able to save the world if things like these made me angry?

I, who am an adult, apologizes for my mistakes.

“Sorry about that, Chifuyu-chan”

“Hm, it’s okay. I forgive you.”

Chifuyu-chan said that while she straightened up herself.

“You’re an idiot, so these things happen.”

“...Haha, you don’t have to force yourself to be some foul-mouthed character.”

This is bad. I was about to cry when she said that to me with that innocent expressionless face.

“But I was told the other day that the ‘An’ in ‘Andou’ stands for ‘An idiot’.”^[13]

“Hey! Just who taught her that crap?!”

When I turned around and yelled that, Tomoyo, Hatoko, Sayumi, all three of them looked away.

All of you, huh?!

I knelt down on the floor and became deeply depressed, but they didn’t care much and went to mind their own business.

...Since everyone didn’t seem to care, I stood up and also started minding my own business.

With that said, with all of us gathered, we could start doing our club activities, is what I would like to say. We have never done much as a club to begin with.

About our club activities, there is really just that yearly literary magazine we publish for the cultural festival, but for now, there is nothing to do.

So we all just do our own thing. Tomoyo is fiddling with her laptop, Hatoko is reading a shoujo manga, Chifuyu-chan is hugging her Lissun squirrel, Sayumi-san is reading a book that looks complicated and I’m reading a light novel.

Sayumi-san and I took our books from the bookshelf.

There are a mountain of books in the bookshelf. Books that have been left by upperclassmen for the underclassmen and mangas and novels that have been given as presents. Over the years, the number of books has become an outrageous amount.

It’s scary how varied the books are.

The first edition of Slayers for example. There is also Dragonball, Slam Dunk, Yu Yu Hakusho, Jojo’s Bizarre Adventure Part 3, Sakigake!! Otokojuku, Jump magazines from the golden age all resting in this bookshelf. These would go for a good price on Yahoo auctions, dont you think?

To show my respect for this bookshelf, I have named it 「God OffThe Divine Discount Bookstore」.^[14] I’m trying to establish a name for it, but no one wants to use it.

“By the way, Sayumi-san”

Tomoyo turned her focus from her computer and called out to Sayumi-san.

“You were pretty late today. Did something happen?”

“Ah, yes. I actually got stopped by Kudou-san, the student council president.”

“What?!”

I suddenly closed my book and started talking.

“So ‘they’ have finally begun taking action... ‘They’, who have been observing us after making us awaken to superpowers. Be careful, Sayumi-san. The student council president is most likely one of ‘their’ minions”

“Sure. Cool story, chuuni. So, Sayumi-san. What did the student council president want with you?”

Tomoyo coldly pushed aside my explanation about the truth of this world and continued the conversation from before.

“It was the same bothersome business as always. How our club’s budget is too big considering how few members we have and that our club should technically be abolished.”

She made a weary sigh.

Kudou-san, the student council president, often comes with complaints about the literature club. I haven’t met her in person, but she sounds like a person who is fully committed to things she do. It doesn’t look like she has any interest in us besides checking if the room may be too big for the few members we have.

I predict that she will be an enemy we will have to fight. I always try to warn the others about it, but nobody listens.

You never know when your in a pinch.

“Well, It’s not like I don’t understand how Kudou-san is thinking, since none of us wants to do any club activities and everybody just does their own thing.”

Sayumi-san said that in a little self-tormenting way. Incidentally, it looks like she joined this club because she was attracted to 「God OffThe Divine

Secondhand Bookstore]. Because she is a person with many hobbies, 「God OffThe Divine Secondhand Bookstore」 was a pretty appealing to her, since it had popular literature that you couldn't find in the library.

Tomoyo groaned and crossed her arms.

“Makes sense. There are only four of us, but we have this huge clubroom all to ourselves. Chifuyu-chan is not a student here either.”

Chifuyu-chan has been coming here since half a year ago. When I asked her why, she answered with a frank “It’s nice here”, so I don’t know the real reason. If she wants to be here, there is no reason to refuse her.

“That’s why, we need to gather more members. I’m feeling sluggish though.”

“Kuku. Worry not, Tomoyo — Nay, «Closed Clock永遠». If there are other chosen ones out there, we need not look for them. They will come to us. All are bound by the chains of fate. Escape is not possible.”

“Shut your face, chuuni!”

“You really are quite the chuuni.”

I got interrupted by Tomoyo and Sayumi-san. Suddenly, Hatoko cut in with “Hey, guys”.

“So what does ‘chuuni’ actually mean?”

“Ehm, Ah...”

I started thinking. What is chuuni? Hmm...

“That’s quite the difficult question to answer. An explanation of our goals...? Doesn’t sit well with me. How strange, or maybe I should say, the key to understanding myself could lie in this answer...”

“That’s enough of quoting the Phantom Troupe’s leader.”^[15]

A cold retort was made by Tomoyo.

...She really got that, even though the reference wasn’t all that obvious. She really has a gift for getting these things.

“But it is hard to give a good explanation about the chuuni syndrome. I feel like I would only be able to come up with some vague explanation. Well, it’s

obvious that someone like Andou sort of represents it.”

“Hey! Hold on! Me having chuuni syndrome? As if!”

“Wait, what? You honestly think you don’t?”

“That’s not it! That’s not... it. Like would it be ok to call someone who is a little plump a fatass? Or would it be ok to go up to a plain looking person and call them ugly? It wouldn’t be, right? It’s exactly like that!”

“I don’t really get it. Are you aware you have it or not?”

I didn’t know what to answer. If I am aware that I have it or not? It was harder to answer than I thought.

When it comes to people who make fun of people with chuuni syndrome... Well, I am a bit aware, but it feels wrong to say I have it.

“Aware? Hmph. What a pointless thing. The thoughts running through my mind... They cannot be comprehended. That’s right. Not by anyone in this world.”

“Yep. There we have it. The chuuni talk.”

Tomoyo was making fun of me. I got frustrated and talked back.

“Quit being all uppity and categorizing every single damn thing. You’re the type of person that would be all ‘L’Arc is just a visual kei band’ or ‘Nisio is just a light novel author’ or ‘There is nothing to read in Jump except Hunter’ and go posting your uninformed shit all over the internet with that smug attitude! Don’t fuck with me!”

“You’re the one that’s uninformed!”

Tomoyo also shouted “I send in the questionnaire every week when I buy Jump!”^[16]

That’s a lot of Jump letters.

“Ha! I bet that’s just because you read ‘Bakuman’! You mainstreamer!”

“Guh...!”

Looks like I hit the bull’s-eye. A mortified expression appeared on Tomoyo and she stayed quiet. Well, I understand how she feels. When reading

‘Bakuman’, it makes you want to send in the questionnaire.

...Though I don’t send in the questionnaires myself, so I’m not the one to talk.

“Well, never mind that.” I went back on topic.

“Ok, Those here who have an idea of what chuuni syndrome is, raise your hands.”

Suddenly, out of the four people here, Tomoyo and Sayumi-san raised their hands.

Hatoko and Chifuyu-chan did not raise their hands.

“So you get it, Sayumi-san?”

“Yes. Well, more or less.”

As expected of the Sayumi-san who knows a lot about different types of hobbies. She is also familiar with the worlds main cultures and sub-cultures.

“But, as Tomoyo-san said, it is hard to give a good explanation. I can also only come up with a vague explanation.”

“Chuuni sure is a hard thing to understand. Isn’t it, Chifuyu-chan?”

“Chuuni, difficult.”

Hatoko and Chifuyu-chan, the pair who doesn’t understand chuuni, are comforting each other.

“I just took a look online.”

Tomoyo said that while fiddling with her laptop.

“No one really has anything definite. ‘It is a normal way for boys and girls to act when they go through puberty’ doesn’t help a lot.”

“This is a tough one, all right.”

“Also, there are different types of chuuni syndrome too. Like the ones that try to be cool by staying away from mainstream stuff or the ones who try to act tough, all ‘Man, it was a while since I had a fight’. And then there are those like Andou who has an evil eyes and stuff and loves to create their own background story.”

Damn you, just running your mouth.

“There are many types of internet slang that would be hard to explain in a dictionary. ‘Tsunidere’ for example.”

“Ah, I see.”

That was an easy to understand example.

A tsundere is at first acting cold to someone when being with everyone, but when they are alone with that person, they start to warm up to that person. I think it had this meaning, but now the meaning has changed.

You can interpret in a broad sense, but using an illustration to explain it to a person who doesn’t know is not possible, right?

“Going back on topic, I can in a way understand what Andou-kun said about being aware if you have the chuuni syndrome.”

Sayumi-san said that in a calm manner while being deep in thought.

“I wonder if there are something like fujoshi.”

“Fujoshi?”

I reflexively asked back. Hatoko beside me said “Hey, hey. What is fujoshi? Another word I don’t understand has appeared.” with tears in her eyes, but I didn’t want to break the conversation, so I left her alone.

“Yes. Actually, I happen to be a fujoshi.”

“Wait a minute!”

“What is it?”

Sayumi-san tilted her head. No no, wait a minute! Something big just came out.

“Sa— Sayumi-san... You are a fujoshi?”

“I am.”

“Not the fujoshi as in elegant woman, but the fujoshi who likes seeing guy-on-guy stuff?”^[17]

“Yes.”

She made a big smile. A smile fresh like the water lilies growing in the waterfront.

“Boys’ love is a delicacy for the ladies.”

“ ... ”

I made a “Really?” like gaze at Tomoyo, who should understand the meaning of fujoshi. Tomoyo shook her head, giving of a “No no”.

But really? So Sayumi-san is a fujoshi. I haven’t seen a single hint of that from her though. Well, it’s this person we are talking about, so it could definitely be one of her many hobbies. That’s what I think.

“Though because I recognize myself as a fujoshi, getting called insults like ‘rotten’ or ‘fujoshits’ is a thing I don’t like. The word ‘fujoshi’ being used as a derogatory term can’t be overlooked.”

“I see! I can totally relate.”

That’s right. I get it.

In my case, I don’t want to admit that I am aware of having the chuuni syndrome, but I do have it after all.

But, I can’t forgive those who mockingly scorn the ‘chuuni syndrome’ because of that.

“Wow, Sayumi-san. I didn’t think you would understand a chuuni so well. And yet, when I am with Tomoyo, I get treated so coldly.”

“I can indeed understand when it comes to the chuuni syndrome. That said, when it comes to you, I don’t sympathize with you one bit.”

Grin. Sayumi-san grinned as she ran her sharp-tongue.

I could feel my heart break.

“Well, there’s a lot to think about. I really don’t think you should say someone has the chuuni syndrome. It’s not like it’s an actual disease.”

“Well, there are people in the world who say it’s not an actual disease, but you are most definitely sick with something.”

Tomoyo continues with her never ending retorts, but I don’t care.

“There should be a better name for it, like 「Fate BreakerOne who challenges destiny」!”

“...For once, I thought you had a good idea. Someone who would be happy calling himself 「Fate BreakerOne who challenges destiny」 obviously has the chuuni syndrome.”

Tomoyo sighed after saying that. When I saw her doing that gesture, I started pondering. Hmm. Maybe 「Fate BreakerOne who challenges destiny」 is a little bit too straightforward and subtle. I was improvising, so it couldn't be helped.

Names are no good unless you take at least a day to think about it.

When I was coming up with the names for everyone's powers, I thought hard about it for a very long time.

I have put very much thought into them. Among them, I am especially proud of my «Dark and Dark黒焰». No, This is bad. My own naming sense scares even me.

“Hey, guys. So can you tell us what a ‘chuuni’ is yet? Chifuyu-chan is going to fall asleep if you don't hurry.”

As I was soaking my self in narcissism, Hatoko started talking. Chifuyu-chan was at her knees, moving back and forth like rowing a boat. She was about to fall asleep.

It's not like it would be bad if you let her sleep, but since I had managed to come up with an answer, I started talking.

“Sorry to keep you waiting, Hatoko, Chifuyu-chan. I will tell you what the truth of this world is.”

“Yep. We have been waiting.”

“Hurry up. Shreepy.”

“Someone with chuuni syndrome feels they are special in some way. They dress up and love dark backstories and lingo. They have a little excess in self-consciousness and sometimes, they are looked poorly upon, even by their colleagues... Well you could say they are like me — Basically,”

I said.

Full with confidence and also loudly.

“Having the chuuni syndrome means that, even if you lie to the rest of the world, you won’t ever lie to yourself.”

Chuuni syndrome patients lie to the world. They are the type that can’t find it in themselves to accept this overly boring world. By fabricating and twisting things, by adding in small lies, they make it bearable. Therefore, they speak nonsense and cause trouble around them.

They spew lies and absurd remarks.

Even still — They can never betray the feelings they hold deep down.

I love being branded a chuuni by my peers.

Words like “Jet Black”, “Bloody” and “Catastrophe” are irresistible!

Phrases like “A conspiracy by an unknown organization” and “A higher being watches over you” just get my blood pumping!

Adding different readings to terms are the default basics! Having an alias is an absolute must! Bring on all the ridiculous names!

Right now, I just wanna save the world and rescue cute girls!

My «Dark and Dark黒焰» may be a bit of a useless superpower, but I love it anyway!

If you enjoy something from the bottom of your heart, then no way is it something wrong.

“He said some nice things there.”

“Not just society or those around him, but the entire world. There he goes being chuuni again.”

Tomoyo and Sayumi-san, being amazed, smiled bitterly. Little bit sharp, but soft bitter smiles. Any sense of insult or ridicule couldn’t be sensed from them.

“Never lying to yourself...”

Hatoko said.

“Chuunis seem kind of cool.”

“Yeah, chuunis are the coolest.”

“I seeee... Then, you really are a chuuni.”

She smiled with a smile like a flower blooming and said that with a lively voice.

Even though we have been together for so long, she still can't understand my sense, but I still feel that it's my childhood friend that understands me the best after all.

Suddenly, from the nonchalantly smiling Hatoko's knees, Chifuyu-chan got up and slowly walked to me.

“So chuunis are cool?”

“Yeah, Chifuyu-chan. They are cool all right.”

Chifuyu-chan tilted her head curiously.

“But andou, you are a big loser.”

“...”

For a few seconds, silence took over the room and then, big laughs filled the room. While the room was enveloped in laughing voices, I squatted down and put my hand on Chifuyu-chan's head and said “That's not true” and sighed.

Part 5

Nothing special happened afterwards. When it got late, we ended our club activities and were on our way home.

Some of us take the train home while some of us walk home, but we all go the same way until then. Chifuyu-chan can, if she feels like it, just activate her power to get home in an instant, but today she decided to go with us until we split.

While having some idle conversations, we exited through school gate and walked down the road illuminated by the sunset. Since we ended our club activities at a strange time compared to other clubs, there were not many people around us.

While looking at the burning red sunset, I squinted my eyes.

“So the twilight zone has come. We may chance an encounter with inhuman creatures around this time...”

“Cool story, chuuni.”

“I bet you just thought ‘Hmm, since twilight zone has twilight in it, I’ll just point out that now is a time something strange could happen’, and wanted to show off that you knew some chuuni trivia, didn’t you?”

“Ah, Juu-kun. My mom said that she has made meat and potato stew, so I’ll bring you some tonight.”

“Sleepy, so sleepy.”

As usual, we have these kinds of conversations while walking home the usual road — when suddenly.

“Ah.”

Chifuyu-chan let out a sound and pointed forward with her small finger.

Over there was — a cat.

It was lying beside a telegraph pole. It had pitch black fur, but its back legs was dyed in deep red. The asphalt around the back legs was covered in a red liquid. The cat moved a little bit while making a small meow, like it was about to die.

Without saying anything, Chifuyu-chan walked up to the cat. We all followed her.

“The kitty... It’s hurt.”

As Chifuyu-chan said, it looked awfully miserable with the lower part of its body filled with blood.

Was it run over by a car? Or was it attacked by a stray dog? We don’t know the cause, but some unfortunate accident must have happened.

I usually use the word ‘bloody’ a lot, but something being bloody for real is not cool at all. It’s awfully miserable and looking at it makes the mood become dark.

“sayumi...”

Chifuyu-chan looked at Sayumi-san with clingy eyes. By looking at her eyes, we understood immediately.

«Root of Origin始原»

The power to return things to their original form.

It doesn't matter if it is a living thing or not.

By using Sayumi-san's power, it would be no exaggeration to say that restoring the dying cat in front of us to its original form would be possible.

But —

“...”

From her face, I could see that a hint of hesitation. Her usually firm attitude was wavering, the internal struggle showing itself.

I knew she was struggling.

That's why, I said this.

“Don't worry, Sayumi-san.”

“Andou-kun...”

“Go ahead. A mere wounded cat is fine.”

I purposely said “mere”.

“...Okay.”

With a small nod, Sayumi-san walked up to the dying cat. She gently touched its black furred body with her hand.

«Root of Origin始原»

Just like that, the cat's wounds healed and the blood around it disappeared.

It went back to its original form.

Meow.

The black cat meowed happily and disappeared to somewhere.

“It was saying thank you.”

Chifuyu-chan turned around and looked at Sayumi-san.

“Appears so.”

Sayumi-san nodded slowly. From her profile, you could see a gloominess.

It's a gloominess we all probably have. Even Chifuyu-chan, the youngest of us, didn't smile brightly.

What we feel right now is — a struggle.

A struggle from having superpowers.

Q1. Just now, was using a superpower to help the cat really the correct thing to do?

This question is tormenting us.

We have... Well, aside from myself, everyone has awakened to superpowers that should not be taken lightly. It would be no exaggeration to say that they are on the divine level.

Therefore, we can easily save the world — We are able to.

For example, if Sayumi-san used her «Root of Origin始原», she could save anyone suffering from an incurable disease. If she were to go and search for those people and save them, countless of people would be able to be happy.

The other three could be of as much use as well. If Tomoyo and Hatoko used their «Closed Clock永遠» and «Over Element五帝», they could destroy terrorist organizations, stop wars and such. If «World Create創世» were used, you could maybe build schools in underdeveloped countries.

But, would that be okay?

Of course not.

If we did such things, the balance of the world would collapse. The delicate balance of this world. It may be a vague representation, but it's a legit representation.

Going ahead and healing all sick people would cause the hospitals, pharmacies and insurance companies to become useless. There is also the problem with knowing at which age a person no longer needs to be saved.

Eighty years? Hundred years? Furthermore, in this world, there is also a disease that can be described as “lifespan”.

The balance of these lives is too much for us to shoulder.

The same goes for the other three. In the end, there is no way doing what we want with the world would be okay.

But.

But, while that may be true, would it have been better to just leave the cat back there as it was?

For a life that is fading away — A life that you could save, would just saying “Sorry, I can’t handle the responsibility” and abandoning it be the right choice?

The answer is no. Of course it’s not okay.

In the end — I don’t know what would be the best.

「I don’t know」

Half a year —

We suddenly awakened to our powers half a year ago.

We haven’t been playing around. We have had to think hard over situations like the one just now.

We have had many worries and many times of agony. There have been great conflicts, great sorrows. While talking about this, we have had many arguments and conflicts.

The results of all that being — 「I don’t know」.

What is right and what we should do. We do not know at all. Could we really say “I saved the world” if we did something? We have no clue.

There will never be an answer to Q1.

We have been thinking like crazy about this.

The result, “There is no answer” is the answer that came out.

The result, “I don’t know” is what we know.

That’s why, we just act however we want.

We didn't help the cat out of benevolence or obligation. We just helped it because we wanted to. That's all there is to it. An action with no sense of responsibility.

But, what's so bad about that?

Ultimately, the world is brutally big. If kids like us were to also get near-divine superpowers, the world would change in an unimaginable way.

If the balance were to collapse by some mischief, it would be impossible to say what would change.

That's why, we just act as we want without really doing anything.

Using our superpowers on extremely meaningless things, reversely saving a life that's about to fade away in front of us. It's a bit of a contradiction, but that's the path we have chosen.

Over half a year — We finally arrived at this point.

"This kind of problem exists in most shounen mangas."

With her cheek dyed with the light from the sunset, Tomoyo spoke.

"The hero pretty much only saves the people that are around him. They don't abandon anyone in need, but they don't go out of their way to search for those in need of help either."

Even though it looks like they could find many if they just tried a little.

Tomoyo made a cynical smile and added that part.

"Even Power ranger types and Rider are no different. Those guys are easy to understand. They just beat up bad guys. They don't help the needy or starving, or try to stop any wars. Even superheroes can't do much about sorrow that people bring on themselves."

When it comes to that, from the perspective of the right, there first needs to be a bad guy in order for there to be a hero.

Well, it is fiction after all. Kamen Rider also has this. In Ryuuki and Faiz, not all riders are good people.

I look up at the crimson red sky and sigh deeply.

“Sure is ironic. When we received divine powers, it just made us realize more than ever how insignificant we are.”

A self-deprecating recall of events. We all became silent for a short period.

But directly afterwards, Tomoyo made a forced smile.

“Don’t worry, your power isn’t divine or anything.”

She made fun of me. I played along and answered back cheerfully.

“Say what? Are you looking down on my «Dark and Dark黒焰»?”

“What? You wanna go? Just so you know, if all of us fought for real, you would be the first to die for sure. Five seconds or less.”

“Hah! You just don’t know at all. When on the verge of death, my «Dark and Dark黒焰» has a hidden ‘next stage’, the setting I came up with — No! I mean, when my dark side and I finally come to terms and it lends me it’s strength, my power ascends to an entirely new level. It becomes «Dark and Dark黒焰 — Of The End終止符を打つ者»!”

“Don’t name your awakened power before you actually awaken it! That’s just painfully stupid!”

“By the way, all of you have a ‘next stage’ too.”

“Don’t need it!”

Tomoyo retorted with all her might and shook her head wearily.

While looking at us, Hatoko is smiling happily, Chifuyu-chan is spacing out and Sayumi-san is making an adult-like smile.

Thus, we continued walking.

Wherever we may be, we are just some normal high school students walking home from school.

no.

Battle



アッピン)



厨はいはい



神崎灯代

せんこう
泉光高校二年三組。
血液型 B 型。

《永遠》

(クローズドクロック)

時間征服の異能。

簡単に言えば『時間を止める』能力になるが、しかしそれは正確ではない。正確には、自分の時間軸をこの世界からズラしたり切り離したりする能力である。それ故に、常人の数十倍の速度で動いたり、停止した時間の中を動けたりもする。

彼女が加速しているのか、それとも世界が遅延しているのか。

彼女だけが動いているのか、それとも世界だけが止まっているのか。

それは誰にもわからない。時間とは、相対的なものなのだ。

補足。ちょっと前に灯代は、時を止めるときは指パッチンをするようにしていたが、その指パッチンがあまりにも下手なので、最近はやらなくなった。

※ Bloody Vivreより一部抜粋

CHARACTER

Translation Notes and References

1. ↑Tomoyo's last name is “神崎”. “神” is the character for God.
2. ↑A power from JoJo's bizzare adventures that allows one to stop time.
3. ↑A power from Kamen Rider Kabuto that allows one to move at high speed.
4. ↑Andou uses “魅せる”, which actually means “to charm”. It is read the same as “見せる”, which means “to show”. In other words, a pun. I just went with “feast your eyes on” since it is impossible make a pun out of it in English.
5. ↑Andou uses “灼ける” to describe how he is burning. He then points out that it's not “焼ける”, but “灼ける”. They basically mean the same thing and are read the same way. In other words, another pun. Impossible to translate literally.
6. ↑Andou uses “ゆめゆめ”, which means “by no means” and is read “yumeyume”. Hatoko takes it as “夢”, which is read “yume” and means “dream”.
7. ↑The name Jurai uses these characters: “寿来”. “寿” is the character for “longevity” and “来” is the character for “come”.
8. ↑黒焰 actually means “black flame”.
9. ↑“神”, which means God, can be read as “Shin”. “Sin” and “Shin” are pronounced the same in Japanese.
10. ↑The popular one uses the characters “小鳥遊”, while Sayumi's last name uses the characters “高梨”. Both are read the same way.
11. ↑A power from JoJo's bizzare adventures that allows one to restore objects to their original form.
12. ↑A power from Bleach which Orihime can use. Through the combination of fairies, she can heal others.
13. ↑She actually says that the “An” in “Andou” is the same “An” as in “Anpontan”, which means idiot, but more insulting.
14. ↑The name is a reference to a discount bookstore in Japan called “Book Off”.
15. ↑Reference to Hunter x Hunter

16. ↑Books in Japan often have a questionnaire included that you can fill and send in to help support the publishers.
17. ↑“婦女子” and “腐女子” are both read “fujoshi” but with different meaning. 婦女子 is the former mentioned in the sentence, while 腐女子 is the latter.

Chapter 2: Alias? That's the Basics

Part 1

Hey.

My name is Guiltia Sin Jurai.

In this world I go by the name of Ando Jurai.

I'm just a typical High school Student...well this is my disguise; I'm actually a person with special powers.

The forbidden power within me, <Dark and Dark>, is a power that can destroy the God itself. It's obvious at this point but even my powers are considered a sin. I am that kind of being.

Ahh~ I have sinned a lot today.

After school, I joyfully headed towards the club room.

You may ask me why. The answer is simple. Just now during the class, I thought of a cool sounding enchantment for my power. An Enchantment that covers the criticism by Tomoyo for having [too much word chaos], has just been finished.

Now all that waits is to test it!

Now, let's hurry to the club room, so that I can use <Dark and Dark> in front of the mirror while making a cool pose. Let's Go!

Jumping down the stairs I reached clubroom on the first floor.

Just then I heard a sound from inside. It seems like someone's already in there. I peeped inside using window on the door.

The person inside the clubroom was... Tomoyo. <Closed Clock> Kanzaki Tomoyo.. She was standing in front of the mirror in the empty classroom.

[...Fuut.]

She was making a cheeky smile. This girl, why is she smiling by herself?

[Fine. If that's how it is, then I, Kanzaki Tomoyo, will be your opponent. But with this powers such as yours, are you even a match for me, for she who controls the fabric of this world, Closed Clock?] <Shamelessly got it from anime. Thanks to whoever done the sub!> With swift movement, she lifts up her shoulder length hair like it comes all the way down to floor. Her eyes were filled with coldness like she was staring down at her opponent, and she had a mocking smile on her face.

[Kat] she made a sound with her mouth. I get it; she must be mimicking the sound of High Heels slamming down on the floor with her tongue.

[It's too late for regrets. Now! Be sealed within a time loop, and continue to roam there for eternity!]

Tomoyo! That Kanzaki Tomoyo has fun saying such things in front of the mirror while she is alone in the room.

“.....”

Just then, I wonder what kind of expression I had on my face. Well, since my face was reflected on the window I knew fully well what kind of face I was making. I had... a very amused expression.

Slide... I opened the door.

“...!!”

Tomoyo shuddered. Then she turned around towards the door mechanically.

“A-A-A-A-Ando...”

Her face got redder and redder, and her mouth kept opening and closing.

“D-D-Did you see?”

I then said from bottom the of my heart.

“Way to go, chuuni!”

“Kyaaaaaaa!”

Suddenly Tomoyo disappeared. It looks like she used her powers. I thought she ran out of the club room, but she was just crouching in the corner of the room, pulling her hair out.

“... I wanna die.”

Tomoyo said sorrowfully, while burying her face in her hand. “Hey, hey.”

I gently put my hands on her shoulder, like a gentleman.

“Man, you haven’t been honest Tomoyo. You’ve been saying otherwise but, you like the name I gave you, which means you’ve been tsundere this whole time~”

“S-Shut up!”

Snap her teary eyes are glaring at me. Normally that would make me scared but, to be honest it’s not that scary right now. To be honest I can’t help but smile.

“Wha? Wait wait, wasn’t the person most excited just now actually the person doing such things in the empty classroom~”

“..Uuu... Y-You are the one who does that all the time...”

“Yup, I do that all the time because it’s cool. I never did anything embarrassing. But~ I wonder who was the one mocking me all the time saying ‘Chuuni, chuuni’ at my awesome ceremonies?”

“Uuu, you are making fun of me...”

“Hey, hey. I have never made fun of you at all. Actually I’m trembling in joy, I have finally met my comrade!”

“I am not your comrade!”

Tomoyo was shouting at me, but I couldn’t stop my smile.

“Hmm~. Then, why would you do such a thing just now~? Didn’t you hate chuunibyou~?”

Tomoyo was shaking in fury, in the end she started to murmur something.

“... I-I don’t like chuunibyou, I really hate it. Like, your naming sense or your thought process, I really hate it... B-But sometimes, rarely but there are times where I’m like ‘Wow, that’s cool’.”

“Hohoho”

“E-Especially, I... think <Closed Clock> has nice ring to it. Using 永遠 (Eternity) and reading it as <Closed Clock>... it matches my ability and, making it sound like it seals you in time, I like it a little. I-It’s only a little though !”

“...Kuu, Kekekekeke!”

I couldn’t hold my laughter. Man, I’m so happy. My naming sense got praised, it got praised.

People like me can't be happier if we are praised for our chuuni style rather than our looks or personality.

Damn, Tomoyo. She’s got a cute side to her as well.

She seems happy with the lines I gave her as well!

“D-Don’t you get carried away! It’s only a little! 99% of things you say still make me gag. It’s just that, once in a while there are things that aren’t so bad!”

“Kuku, don’t be such Tsun Tsun Tomoyo. Now, why don’t you fall to Chaos with me.”

“Ahh, really, those things aren’t cool! Don’t just think you can make things sound cool by adding the word Chaos!”

“Now now. Although you say that, but your inner self thought it was cool right?”

“Uuu! R-Really!”

When I made a fool out of her, Tomoyo kicked her chair out and glared at me like she was about to charge.

“Stand up! Since it comes to this I’ll end you right here! With your stupid power, you will never be able to defeat me!”

“Hey~, go easy on me~. I can’t beat someone who controls the fabric of this world, <Closed Clock>-san. Woah, so scary~ I’m about to be sealed inside time itse...”

“Uuu! Uwaaaaaaaa!”

Tomoyo, who just stood up collapsed onto the table.

My flawless victory.

Weakness of those suffering from chuunibyou, I know it too well. If I had to say it like Shinomori Aoshi, "If it's about my sword, I know the swordsmanship all too well" or something like that.

For people those who say chunnibyou things, it's not being ignored nor being rejected nor being treated like fool... but being laughing stock that's more humiliating than anything...

"Hmm. To deal with you, it seems like I didn't even needed to use my <Dark and Dark>."

It's rare winning against such fellow, so I'm gloating for a bit.

"True power, its divinity increases as you don't use them for fun. Yes, just like the essence of technique that cuts down your enemy while still being within the sheath."

"... There's no one here who plays around with ability more than you do!"

Tomoyo said quietly. Yeah, that is true.

I do activate my <Dark and Dark> at least three times a day and bask in its glory. It got to a point where if I don't see my dark flame at least once before going to bed, I won't be able to sleep. It's like special ability bargain sale. Bargain sale of level comparable to Super Saiyan from Dragonball.

"The true power, even if you mess around them its might doesn't diminish, rather it gets stronger. Yes, just like sauce from eel shop that taste better and better as it ages."

"... That example made no sense."

Yeah it made no sense whatsoever. Anyway, I'm surprised that Tomoyo is also chuuni. There were some signs before, but I never thought it would be this bad. Her actions just now have shaken me up quite a bit, so I forgot everything I was thinking just no...

"KWAAAA!?"

No way! I forgot that cool enchantment I thought of during class!

"Oi Tomoyo! Thanks to you I forgot my enchantment!"

“Whatever! It’s not my fault!”

“No way.. What was it... I can only remember reducing the word ‘chaos’ to only two times...”

“That’s still way too many.”

“I should have taken a note of it... Ahh, flash of imagination like lightning, it may never come back again...”

I got depressed. Damn it, cheer up. Think back to what happened before. Ah, if I remember correctly , I got bored during class so I looked up the meaning of ‘Apocalypse’ on my electronic dictionary and started laughing by myself; then I thought the girl sitting near me was laughing, so I thought “damn it is she mocking me”, I got paranoid... after that I went back and searched ‘Genesis’...

“Tomoyo. Lend me your PC for a sec.”

If I search for ‘Genesis’ on the internet I might remember. I politely asked then headed toward her computer.

Toward the laptop that has been open ever since I came into this room.

“N-Noooooo!”

“Whaaaaa!”

Since she closed her computer at warp speed, my hand got caught between it. It felt like mice getting caught on mice trap.

“That... hurt. What the hell.”

“It’s because you are trying to look at other person’s computer without permission!”

“What? Everyone uses your computer.”

“If you want to use it then get permission first. Now, go ahead and use it now.”

Then she handed me her computer. There was nothing on the screen whatsoever, just ordinary picture of lake was present.

“What, were you looking at ero sites?”

“Idiot! Don’t lump me like your kind!”

Hmm. I wonder what she is hiding. It bothers me, but I guess it’s polite not to ask such things. Anyway I’m more worried about the enchantment.

“Now, my friend Google. Let’s go on an adventure to find my lost memory.”

“Just shut up”

Part 2

By the time I thought of cool sounding enchantment with the power of Google, members all arrived at the club room. Beside me and Tomoyo, Hatoko, Chifuyu and Sayumi-san, those three were also here now.

“Tomoyo. Thanks for the computer~”

“Yeah. So, did you remember?”

“Ahh. Nope, it’s bit different to remembering it. How do I say it? It came down on me, or we met again.”

“... Driving me nuts.”

“Thanks to that I thought of new alias, in the end its all clear.”

“... You, stop trying to think of your own alias. It’s hurt just to see that.”

Ignoring Tomoyo who’s face is turning blue, I took out a notebook from my bag.

Dark, pitch black notebook.

“Wow, it came out! Book of dark history.”

“It’s not book of dark history! It’s Red Holy Book [Bloody Bible]!”

[Bloody Bible]

It’s a forbidden scripture that contains all the truth of this world.

“... Ando. I’m not going to make fun out of you, so burn that thing right now. You will faint when you look back at it in the future.”

Ignoring Tomoyo who’s giving me a serious advise instead of making fun of me like always, I wrote down ‘Enchantment’ and new alias into my Red Holy Bible. My my, another sinful name has been added.

“Ah~ Ju-kun is that, that black notebook you bought before?”

Hatoko interfered.

“Ah, so nostalgic~. Was it about a year ago? We went to the five different

shops together to find it~ Ju-kun was kept asking the shop assistant ‘is there any black notebook?’ multiple times.”

Due to of Hatoko’s casual words, Tomoyo started to give me cold stares.

“No no, what are you saying Hatoko? This is like Death Note. It suddenly fell in front of my feet?”

“And Ju-kun painted the white part of the notebook with red pen, and then painted the part you write your name with black pen then wrote your name with a marker. Ju-kun was into art since when we were young.”

”No this is... Mmm, let’s drop it.”

Since Tomoyo is looking at me like she’s looking at some garbage, I give in a bit.

I turn my attention back to my [Bloody Bible]. The red line on the black fabric, it has resemblance of red moon coming up on the dark night sky. So freaking cool.

In squared fonts I wrote [Bloody Bible] (I did my best with my ruler), and on the place where names go it has my true name ‘Guiltia Sin Jurai’ written on it. Actually I wanted to write all in English but I made the word Guiltia up so I didn’t know how to write it, in the end I gave up.

“Ando.”

When I was looking at my [Bloody Bible], Chifuyu’s voice came.

“You shouldn’t play around with that notebook.”

“Chifuyu, this is different. This is [Bloody Bible].”

“.....”

“... Yes. I am sorry. I was playing around. This won’t happen again so forgive me.”

“Hmm, that’s fine.”

Being defeated by the pressure of her innocent eyes, Chifuyu nodded her head in satisfaction.

Damn whenever she does it I can never win.

“Hmm? By the way Ando, this here.”

Tomoyo said while pointing at the title of the book. It has ‘Red Holy Book’ written on it, and on top of that it has ‘Bloody Vivre’ written in small font. Man I get shivers reading that.

“You spelt Bible wrong.”

“... What?”

“Bible is written as ‘Bible’. You wrote it as ‘Vivre’.”

I slowly looked at the title. It sure has Vivre written on it in cool looking font.

Wait, wait, wait?

My head is about to explode from the confusion. I panicked so much that I didn’t even mock Tomoyo saying ‘Oh so you know the spelling of Bible, wow you sure are something’. No, before that.

“S-Sayumi-san!”

I hurriedly went over to the president.

“W-When I asked for spelling of holy book you said it was ‘Vivre’ didn’t you!?”

“...Kuuu!”

When I asked, she made sound like she couldn’t hold it in anymore. Her shoulders are trembling, trying hard not to look at my way.

“... I-I’m sorry, Kuu. I-I accidently taught you the wrong... Kuu.”

I can see just from looking at her back that she’s enjoying this.

So this girl, she taught me wrong word on purpose!

She must have laughed inside her head whenever I took my notebook out!
What a Sadist!

“Ando that makes it vivre, Bloody Vivre. Why are you making fashion brand of Aeon group bloody.”

“Ah, but Ju-kun. Since you bought that book from Vivre stationary shop next to the station so this is must be fate~.”

Listening to Tomoyo making fun of me and Hatoko’s laid back answer, I fall to

the ground.

Too much, this is too much Sayumi-san... I can't rewind that back. Even if I cover 'Vivre' part with black pen it won't be the same. Bloody Vivre...

I fell into despair, but since no one paid any attention to me I recovered fairly soon after.

Oh well. Let's say that world I live in instead of Bible, it has Vivre. Just like Giogio instead of Jojo on Jojo Part 5 where Italy was the background.

... But even so, how come members in this club don't comfort me when I'm in despair and just ignore me. Maybe they figured out that if they let me be I will go back to normal quickly?

I changed my mood and took my seat again. Flipping pages of my [Bloody Bible], I ask them this question.

"So what are your aliases?"

Just then, mood of this room changed. Sayumi-san who just managed to stop her laughter said to me like she's lecturing me.

"Why don't you stop asking questions and making it sound as if having an alias is a requirement?"

"Ehh! So, none of you guys have any alias!?"

"Normal people won't have any, so no."

"Is that so, ah... if that's the case, does that mean I'm truly one and only special kind."

"That would be so. First of all, if you are the one thinking about it you can't call it an alias right?"

Sayumi-san was absolutely right. Since situation got bad, I turn towards everyone and changed the subject.

"Alright, like last time, let's have show of hands. Raise your hand if you've got an alias."

No one showed their hand. As expected.

"Then raise your hand if you don't know the meaning of alias."

This time, only Chifuyu raised her hand.

“Oh, so Hatoko already knows?”

That’s unexpected. Hatoko usually is ignorant about this kind of stuff.

“Hmm, alias are like nicknames right?”

Hmm. It feels a bit different from nicknames.

Since I’m struggling to answer, Sayumi-san and Tomoyo said.

“To put it simply for normal people to understand, it’s like “Witch of the West” or “Daimajin”? In world of sport there are quite a lot of aliases (二つ名) or nicknames (異名).”

“In anime there are things like “Witch” or “Ice Queen” or “Shinigami” like that. There are lots of examples of these three out there so it won’t be surprising if someone copies it. And “Witch” has infinite possibility by just adding “Witch of the OO” to it.”

It was an easy enough example. Hatoko clapped her hands.

“Ah, I get it. It’s like ‘Count of Heisei’ or like ‘Talking Magician’” <Can’t find reference to these names. I’m sure it’s something to do with Japanese tv shows> It was answer that only Hatoko would give; unexpectedly of her she really likes comedy shows. She watched Shoten <TN Japanese skit show> every week and when M-1 <TN Autobacs M-1 Grand Prix competition show that aired in japan> finished she was so upset that she cried.

”Okay then. Let’s all think about our alias today.”

Such an amazing suggestion at such an amazing timing.

“No.”

“I refuse.”

“I don’t wanna~.”

“Boo”

And just like that, rejection came at me like a storm. But I’m not about to give up just at that. I quietly put my hands inside my pocket and pulled out a coin. It’s wasn’t an ordinary 100 Yen coin nor a game arcade token, it was foreign

coin with some kind of emperor on it.

Why wasn't it Japanese coin?

Because it's cool.

"You guys all know the rule right? If there is disagreement then we flip a coin."

Everyone gave me a look like they are saying "No, when did we agreed on that...", but I ignored them and flipped the coin. Making an arc like graph of $Y = -X^2$ I caught the coin with back of my left hand. Just like how I practiced countless time at home, coin fell on my hand perfectly. I cleared my right hand, and showed the result that god has given us.

"It's tail."

Coin has a picture of some kind of a shrine as tail. Seeing that everyone was saying "It's tail" "So it's tail huh". And in unison they said ""So what?""

"....."

I forgot.

I didn't specify what we'll do when it's a head or when it's a tail... What do I do, everyone's looking at me.

Please help! God please!

When I'm sweating cold sweat, Tomoyo said "Well, let's put that aside" and let go of that topic. I like it when she's considerate sometime!

"Alias is, isn't it something that others around you call you by and therefore stick around that way right? It's not something you think of yourself."

Well in the world of fiction that's how alias are set. In reality it would have been the author thinking of alias by squeezing ideas from their head but that's not the point here.

"And also, we already have names for our powers so won't that do for our alias? Just like "Accelerator" or "Railgun"."

"That's fine like that but~. You guys all want multiple names right?"

"Don't need it. I don't hate the idea of having alias but I don't like the fact I'm

thinking of one.”

“Yo Tomoyo. You are quite against this. Did I touch your dark history?”

“I-Idiot! That’s not it!”

I said jokingly but, Tomoyo was seriously worried. So it looks like she made her own alias in the past.

As I thought, this girl. She was proper Chunni in the past.

“Hey hey, calm down Tomoyo. Even if you can’t, I’ll make a cool alias for you.”

“I don’t need such thing! Don’t gift a stupid alias to a girl! Ah, this is the worst!”

“Eh? Won’t you be happy if you receive an alias?”

“There exist no girl who will be happy after receiving an alias!”

Is that so. In that Sports comedy light novel I read before <TN I think he’s talking about Ro-Kyu-Bu! But I’m not too sure>, main character got friendly with the female character by giving her an alias... well it’s no use talking with Tomoyo at this point, so I changed my target to a defenceless female primary schooler.

“Chifuyu.”

“Yes?”

“Do you want to make an alias?”

“Is that fun?”

“It’s really fun.”

“Then I’ll do it.”

Persuasion done. Other members gave me dirty look but, I don’t care.

In this club, Chifuyu’s opinions are always respected above everything else. In other words, if you make Chifuyu your ally, then rest just happens without objection.

Therefore, let’s start make everyone’s alias.

Part 3

When everybody got their notebooks out while moaning, I got in front of the whiteboard and started my ‘Making alias (二つ名) from scratch. Nickname (異名) lecture’.

I started off speaking like a teacher.

“Okay everyone~, there are patterns when you see an alias. Let’s start off with basic ones. Okay, with alias, you can group them up in two groups. In our world we call them [Kaminoku] and [Shimonoku].” <TN Kaminoku (上の句) mean front of the poem, Shimonoku (下の句) means end of the poem. I wonder if it’s better to put it as Front and Back.> “What kind of world is that” Ignoring Tomoyo, I wrote something on the whiteboard.

[Witch] [God] [Queen] [King] [Ruler] [Noble] [Wizard] [Clown]

“Well, these are traditional Shimonoku. For Kaminoku.”

[Crimson] [Darkness] [Pitch Dark] [Golden] [Forbidden] [Chaos] [War]
[Oblivion] [Destiny] [Dawn]

“That’ll do. It looks like Kaminoku has lots of expressions to do with colour. So then, let’s take one each from both Kaminoku and Shimonoku then let’s make an alias with it.”

[King of Darkness]

“And we get this. Ah, this one is good~. You can feel the corruption and antiqueness. If he was one of Four Divas it sounds like he’ll be the final boss.”

“It’s just full of chuunibyou delusions.”

Ignore the mocking. It’s getting to the good part.

“[King of Darkness] is fine by itself, but by arranging one more part we can take this to next level. Just like cooking, by adding bit of seasoning we can take it further. Now then, Hatoko-chan.”

“Yes!”

“I like your enthusiasm. Now can you add ruby characters to this?”

“Yes~ Excuse me Ju-Kun-sensei. What is a ruby?”

“It’s like Yomigana (よみがな). First, please write something in front of [King of Darkness] in Katakana.” <TN It’s like Pseudonym that small text next to Japanese characters are Yomigana. Also known as Furigana.> Hatoko thought for a second and wrote something with her pen.

[King of Darkness (Black King)]

“Here it is! Hey hey, how is it? Ju-kun, is this kind of thing right?”

“... Haaa~”

As expected I sighed.

“Hatoko. I’m disappointed in you.”

“Wha! Ju-Kun turned back to normal!”

“It shows how shocking that was. Hatoko, what have you been learning for past 17 years?”

“I’ve been studying various things~”

Looking at Hatoko who was pouting, I shook my head.

Really, she doesn’t know anything. I erased [Black King] and wrote something else in its stead.

[King of Darkness (Lord of Thanatos)]

“This is the correct answer, and also one of the many aliases that I own.”

There are too many childish names with King in it so we’ll use Lord. And instead of using Black we can use the Greek God of Death Thanatos. Point is to not be predictable and use King of Darkness.

So cool, Thanatos is really cool.

“Uuu~ Tomoyo. I don’t know what’s going on anymore...”

“There there it’s fine. There’s nothing wrong.”

Leaving those two to them, I went back to lecture with my mock teacher tone.

“For Shimonoku, it is said we can use your own name. For example, if we’ve got a person of name Tanaka-kun, we can use Storm as Kaminoku and thus

create [Tanaka of the Storm].”

... I just thought this after saying that but, name Tanaka isn't that cool. Actually, not just name Tanaka, any Japanese name are quite difficult.

“Well, that's that. This kind of method is better suited for foreign names. Like [Rahoul of the Storm] or [Reo of the Flame]. For well-known examples, [Straw Hat Luffy] [Smoker the White Hunter] comes into this category. Now then Chifuyu-chan.”

“What is it?”

“Why don't you give us some aliases like these you know ?”

“[The Borrower Arrietty]”

” ... So Close.”

“[Ponyo on the Cliff]”

“Hmm, you think you can use something else but Ghibli?”

“Taira no Kiyomori.”

“Hmm, just because a word goes between names it doesn't make it an alias. It's not like Kitomori's title is Taira.”

“Stupid Ando”

“From all of those the best sounding... wait, who's stupid!”

“Alias, it's hard.”

With ending this conversation with her mocking me, I changed the subject.

“You don't always have to be aware of 'Shimonoku' and 'Kaminoku'. They are only tools to help so you can ignore them if you so choose to. As example.”

[Wild Beast (Lion King)]

“Ah, doesn't that sound awesome.”

I'm falling in love with my own naming sense. This is something I just thought of just now, it's best to suppress the negative feeling associated with Wild Beast with name such as Lion King which has musical vibe to it.

“Using a classic masterpiece as name is another method. Just like Stand from

Jojo it's fine to cite from foreign things."

"Hey~ Why didn't you allow Black King when Lion King is allowed~? They are both King~"

"That is all on your own judgement."

"Uuu~ I don't know any more~"

This is all up to personal preference, so it's really difficult to explain. But nevertheless Black King has this vibe that just doesn't feel right.

I was getting bored of doing this fake teacher voice and I didn't really have anything else to say, so I decided to start wrap things up.

"Remember this everyone. I've been saying this constantly until now but most important thing is your own feelings. There are no set rules for creating your alias or your nickname so go make them freely, be free."

I finished by sayings things that an art teacher who's full of themselves would say.

Everyone is looking at me like they are saying "then there was no point of that lecture" but, well that's just a segway to next order of business.

It was about time everyone finished so I went around looking at person to person.

First is Hatoko.

"Fufu. I'm confident ~"

Smiling brightly she started to read out the alias she wrote in her note.

"1. [Red Hatoko]"

"Straight out of the manual!"

She just magnificently misused my lecture!

"Isn't this enough? I thought you can put colour into Kaminokou? <?>"

"Even so don't put it in front of your real name. [Red Hatoko]... it's meaningless!"

"I also don't know the meaning of Ju-kun's [Lord of Thanatos] as well!"

“Hmm...”

I can't say anything back at that. Well truth be told Alias gives importance in its looks so most don't have any meaning attached to it.

And there are quite few like that as well.

“Anyway first one is out. Next.”

“2. [Blue Hatoko]”

“It's the same!”

“Eh~ but I put colours in mine from 1 to 10~”

“Why! Are you a colouring pencil!”

“Hmm. That example is bit weird.”

“... You are strict on jokes aren't you.”

“Ah, Ju-kun I got it I got it. Don't worry this time.”

“Okay, let's hear it.”

“11. [Bright red Hatoko]”

“That's still the same! Stop with this repeating jokes!”

“Ara, really? I made a repeating joke...? Ah~ I'm so embarrassed.”

“You look happy.”

It looks like she's happy that she managed to make repeating joke without realising it. What the hell.

“My god. How many times are you going to repeat the same joke over and over again? Are you a humanity or what!”

“Ah Ju-Kun. That metaphorical retort you just said sounds excellent.”

“What, really?”

“Yeah yeah. That dark feel sounds good, like black humour.”

Kuku, it looks like my comeback skill has gone up during this short conversation.

Growing in skill in middle of a battle, so cool.

“Hatoko. You too, strive toward so as not to lose against me.”

“Okya. Now I’ll keep going. 11. [Hatoko of Heisei].”

“That makes sense since you were born during Heisei period but, rejected.”

“12. [Hatoko of Showa].”

“It’s not that I’ve got problem with Heisei. Rejected.”

“13. [Play along straight man Hatoko].” <TN thank you anime again!>

“No, I don’t think play along straight man fits you....”

“Eh~? That’s not true~ I can do so... Wait, no course I can’t!” <?>

“You are doing it?! After saying that you can’t?! What is that, self-contradiction?!”

“Ehehe. I did it I did it. So therefore my alias will be [Play along straight man Hatoko]!”

Since she was saying that while innocently laughing I couldn’t say anything else.

Hmm, well no matter. She’s happy with it.

Since I’ve concluded with Hatoko I moved onto next person.

Next is Sayumi-san.

“I’m not that confident.”

While saying such a humble thing, she was giving off a confident vibe; it was obvious she was confident of herself.

“1. [Konayukihime]” <TN Powdered-snow princess>

“Ah, that sounds good.”

So she’s twisted a bit from Snow White.

As expected of Sayumi-san, doing everything to perfection. It’s perfect example of a name.

“On the contrast don’t change it and make it [Shirayukihime (Snow White)].”

“That’s a good name. It gives off ‘Simple is Best’ vibe.”

“This maybe common but. 3. [Girl of Steel (Iron Maiden)]”

“It’s a bit old-fashioned but it’s a yes.”

It should have been ‘Maiden’ but changing it to ‘girl’ makes it sound modest like Japanese women so I’d give it a high score. <TN umm... okay?> “4. [Sleeping Beauty (Sleeping Beauty)]. This is more like Chifuyu-chan then me.”

“It does fit her more yes.”

“5. [Senran no Utahime]” <TN literal translation War Diva or Diva of Battlefield.> “They are all good. There’s nothing to criticise about. As expected, Sayumi-san is great.”

“Thank you very much.”

“Maybe your style is similar to mine.”

“Ando-kun. When you are the one saying that instead of being praise it becomes an insult so be careful. I can get compensation for defamation for that.”

Sayumi-san said such thing without hesitation.

Anyway, this person is incredible. She’s got wide range of hobbies and talents so even if we ask for difficult favours she answers with utmost quality.

Although if I pick something that catches my attention...

“Sayumi-san’s alias. They are like Princesses or a girl; all of them are something cute.”

“... What?”

Her face froze.

“It’s just that, in my head Sayumi-san is always mature person so I thought ‘Witch’ or ‘Queen’ fitted you better, but since everything were something cute so I was just bit surprised.”

“C-Cute...”

“Sayumi-san. Do you admire princesses and such? If that’s the case I guess you do have childish part of you.”

“... Hm!”

Suddenly Sayumi-san twisted my arms in swift motion.

“Aaaaarg!”

“Don’t be so loud. I’ve only dislocated your shoulder.”

“Isn’t that quite major?! You can’t dislocate some joints like battle manga in real life! Aaaaaaarg my shouldeeeeeer!”

“That’s fine. I fixed it with <Route of Origin> right after dislocating it so pain should have been an instant.”

“Eh? Ah, that’s true.”

When I moved my shoulder as a test, there weren’t any pain to speak of. Actually it’s in great condition.

To heal the wound straight after attack, and thus only administer the pain without making open wound...

That’s scary ability, <Route of Origin>. No, you are suspiciously way too skilled in this Sayumi-san.

“My goodness. Ando-kun is getting big headed so you disrespect people above you, that won’t do.”

She said in a sulky tone.

I wasn’t thinking of teasing her though.

“We are all playing along with your little play with everyone’s corporation so make sure you remember that “.

“.... Yes, I’m so sorry. Ah, hmm, so Sayumi-san’s alias. What will it be?”

“I’m not interested in such things right now.”

And she turns her face around. I don’t understand exactly what but it looks like her feelings were hurt. But since we got to this point I pestered her for her pick.

“Please anything will do.”

“Then [Doki doki angel Sayumi].”

“.....”

She just didn't care.

Since negotiation with angered Sayumi-san seems unlikely I moved onto next person.

Next is Chifuyu.

“Chifuyu tried her best.”

She showed her notebook confidently.

“[Strawberry (Mikan)].”

“.... Ah~ yes.”

What can I say, it sounds like astral. Her Ruby just looks like a misprint.

“How is it? Ando.”

“Ah, that's. Yes, well its fine... Has it got some special meaning?”

“Ando told me to write anything I like. So I wrote something I like.”

“Ah that's right. So Chifuyu must love strawberries and oranges.”

“Yes. I like them.”

“..... But the thing is. Hmm, this is bit different. How can I explain it.”

“Ando told me to be free.”

“Uuu.”

“You said like but, this is no?”

Her innocent eye stops me from saying anything. Ah crap, since I told her to be free in what she chose I can't strongly disagree.

Without much of a choice I just praised her with “No, its fine, it's great. You must be a genius.”. So Chifuyu seemed to be have so much fun that she showed us more alias she came up with. <?> “[Strawberry Mochi (Mikan Mikan)]”

“Why did you repeat oranges twice?”

“I copied Ando's [Dark and Dark].”

Kuuu!

Hearing that I can't say anything. No that's not it, there's deep meaning in why I say Dark twice in [Dark and Dark]...

"[Loser who eats lot of Strawberry Mikna]" <?>

"... Yes thanks. Thanks for listening in my lecture."

"[Hero of Fruit]"

"If that meant 'mistake' then it might have been better... Chifuyu. Don't you have anything other than fruit?" <TN in Japanese and Korean. Fruit can be written as 過失 meaning accident, mistake or fault.> When I asked Chifuyu replied saying 'Yes' then she spoke while pointing bit further away from Fruit names.

"[Mother (Father)]."

"That sound like complicated family?!"

"Chifuyu loves mother and father very much."

"Well that's a good thing! That might be the best thing in the world!"

"[Former Mother (Witch)]"

"What happened between you and your mother in the past?!"

"[Late Coming Dad (Cheater)]"

"That's not true! His work just finishes late!"

"[Father's Co-worker (Thieving Cat)]"

"They are just normal co-workers! Please believe in your father!... Chifuyu, I think family ones are fine so shall we go to next ones?"

"[Teddy Bear (Honey)]"

"... Hmm it's cute so pass."

"[Panda (Black over White)]"

"Only Ruby sounds cool!"

"[The Wing that doesn't touch the Sky (Penguin)]"

"This time only main part sounds cool!"

“Next is...”

“Wait, I think we’re done with animals too.”

I drew a deep sigh. As anticipated, it seems like the concept of alias hasn’t been understood by Chifuyu. Well, that can’t be helped; she’s still primary school kid.

To understand the delicate harmony that is created by use of Japanese foreign words and Katakana, you must have a matured mind.

Yes, just like me!

“Chifuyu. You’ve done well thinking off all these names. Then shall we choose one that you like the most?”

“Mmm Mmm”

Chifuyu crossed her arms and started to think hard. After thinking about it for about a minute while lightly stomping her legs or pulling Lissun’s <?> tails, she said ‘This’ and pointed at a name.

“[Sweet Sour Pork (Pineapple)]”

“.....”

From all those that came before, it’s most astral.

Maybe it’s so bad it did 180 and made it cool.

This child might be way ahead of her time.

“Does our Chifuyu really like this?”

“Chifuyu loves pineapple in Sweet Sour Pork.”

“Is that so...”

“So mum often makes Sweet Sour Pork with just pineapple.”

That’s no longer Sweet Sour Pork you know. In the first place you put pineapple in Sweet Sour Pork to tenderise the pork using their enzymes, so that’s just defeating its purpose.

“From now on you can call Chifuyu [Pineapple].”

It sounds like she’s proud of that. As usual her thought process is none the

wiser.

Well since it's been decided I head over to next person.

Well, things are definitely not going the way I thought they would.

How can I say, it looks like everyone's missing their power of Chunni, they lack the will that appeal towards their soul.

Then again, I know that wishing everything going the way I want is also wrong...

Even with complicated feelings, I talk to the last contender.

"If we're gonna do it then just do it quickly."

Tomoyo said coldly while pointing at her note.

"[Antinomy Witch Who Sneers at Twilight (Endless Paradox)]"

"....."

"I-I just thought of that without thinking much of it! I only thought of chunni thing that you might like after listening to your lecture!"

"....."



“I-It’s not like I want to be called that or anything, it’s not something I thought of in the past at all!”

“... Tomoyo.”

“W-What...”

“You win.”

“Win?!”

“I’ve got nothing else to teach you. You have achieved a license.”

“I don’t need such thing!”

“Master...”

“Don’t call me master! What’s up with that look of envy?!”

“[Shishou [Master]]...”

“Don’t write [master] in ruby either!”

“But never forget, Tomoyo. There are no ends in the way of Chuunibyou. Do not think that you’ve mastered everything.”

“I was never interested in it in the first place! Never mind that what are you?! Are you my senior or underling?”

“Your Comrade (Friend).”

“Don’t write comrade and read it as friend!”

“W-What is this! Power of Chuunibyou, 7000, 8000, no way. It’s still rising...?”

“Stop with that Scouter play!”

“There’s no end to this power. How much power does my

[Ye heavenly infant dokjon (Hakoware)] need to defeat this...” <TN If you read hunter x hunter then please tell me I got this right...> “Is my Chuuni power as powerful as Menthuthuyoupi?!”

I, Guiltia Sin Jurai, for the first time felt fear... in front of true terror and ultimate despair... in fear and hopelessness I let a tear drop. This was also the

first time for me...

“Stop crying! Stop chattering your teeth! What am I, a Freezer?!”

As usual Tomoyo’s counterattack hits its target.

No, beside from joke it is actually really cool

[Antinomy Witch Who Sneers at Twilight (Endless Paradox)]

I like how she used Sneer instead of Smile. Also I understand a bit when she uses Twilight instead of Dark.

But the best part is... Antinomy

... Cool, Antinomy is so cool.

“So with that! The winner of 1st Alias contest is... [Closed Clock] Kanzaki Tomoyo’s [Endless Paradox]!”

“When did this became a contest!”

“Now! Everyone round of applause!”

[Wow...] Clap Clap Clap

“Everyone’s playing along?!”

Tomoyo was shocked. I was also surprised but accepted it quickly.

Hatoko likes to play along with everyone and Sayumi-san likes to make fun of people. Chifuyu is... well it feels like she doesn’t understand but she just copied everyone.

After judging that I could irritate her in this mood I decided to go all in with this.

“To winner Kanzaki Tomoyo we award everyone the authority to call you by your alias for next one week ”.

“Is this some kind of penalty game?!”

“Now the [Endless Paradox]-san, a word please.”

“Quit calling me with that! ... I haven’t really got anything to say...”

“It seems like from judge’s perspective the use of the word ‘Antinomy’ gains

quite high points.”

“What do you mean ‘judge’s’... isn’t this all your preference?”

“‘Paradox’. It’s really cool. It resonates into my soul. What is the deep meaning behind this word?”

“... That’s. Well... i-I don’t really know the meaning behind but... the feel of the word, i-it sounded cool...”

“If that’s the case [Endless Paradox]-san decided to use a word that you do not know the meaning to as your alias?”

“..... Yes.”

“Heh, hmm, heh...”

“What is up with that irritating expression?! If you’ve got something to say then just say it!”

“And that was some word from [Endless Paradox]-san. Now everyone, once again round of applause for [Endless Paradox]-san!”

“””Clap Clap Clap”””

“Again why is everyone going with the flow suddenly?! Am I surrounded by my enemies?!”

“Now then everyone, all together! Endless! Endless!”

“””Endless! Endless!”””

“They started to chant?!”

“Paradox! Paradox!”

“””Paradox! Paradox!”””

“Antinomy! Antinomy!”

“””Antinomy! Antinomy!”””

“Antinomy! Antinomy!”

“””Antinomy! Antinomy!”””

“Isn’t Antinomy being chanted again?!”

“Antinomy! Antinomy!”

“””Antinomy! Antinomy!”””

“I beg of you guys now please stoooooooooooooop!”

And thus we end our 1st Alias contest.

Well, what can I say.

Today was fulfilling day too.

Part 4

After club has ended five children roam around the road dyed in golden light.

[Lord of Thanatos] *One of many aliases.

[Play along straight man Hatoko]

[Doki Doki Angel Sayumi]

[Pineapple]

[Endless Paradox]

... Still long way to go. There must be a limit to how astral this is.

Everyone has got technique name which I gave that has been transcended into being cool so maybe it's better to go with technique name = alias.

"Oi, [Endless Paradox]"

"....."

"Oi, stop ignoring me [Endless Paradox]"

"....."

"Don't pretend you can't hear [Endless Paradox]"

"... Don't call me by that name!"

With terrifying force she turned around and like she was about to breath fire as she shouted.

"If you make fun of me anymore then I will explode!"

"What are you saying, who's making fun of you. I was really thinking that you've got good sense for naming things?"

From bottom of my heart I gave out praises. I really think the name is great so that's why I'm calling her [Endless Paradox]. Making fun of her, how dare her.

Well if I do say so, personally I like something short and concise as my alias but that's up to my personal preference.

“... Why don't you just make fun of me already then...”

Tomoyo sighed with complicated expression on her face. [doki doki Angel Sayumi], Sayumi-san comforted such person.

“Please lighten up, [Endless Paradox]-chan.”

“E-Even Sayumi-san...”

“Because of Ando-kun, you are stuck with such a name as [Endless Paradox] that reeks of Chuunibyou... I really do sympathise... Fffft!”

“But you are enjoying this!”

When even Sayumi-san laughed, Tomoyo grabbed and pulled her hair.

“... Ahhh really. Just forget about that alias.”

“Kuku, it's unfortunate. Your real name has already been entered into this [Bloody Bible]. There is no way that your name will be forgotten... Ah, what?”

When I put my hand into my bag to take my [Bloody Bible] out, I realised.

“I-It's gone?!”

[Bloody Bible] isn't there! The scripture that contains the truth of this world?!

“What, what is it?”

“Tomoyo... it's an emergency. [Bloody Bible] is gone.”

“Ahha, Bloody Vivre is gone?”

“Hey, don't call it Vivre.”

What will you do if that name sticks.

“Ah damn it. Have those 'people' finally started to make their move. It's dangerous, inside that scripture it has countless amount of forbidden art which has been sealed written in there....”

“Shut up, Chuunibyou... Ah, thinking back didn't you spill your bag in spectacular fashion in front of the entrance?”

Ah, when I think back that's it. I horridly put things back in and chased after these guys. Ah, maybe I dropped it back then...

“... Does that mean it’s dropped in front of the club room?!”

“Well, maybe I think?”

“... Damn, that’s not good.”

If it’s outside of our club room then other people can see it. It’s one thing that our club members who know everything to see, but if someone who doesn’t know anything ever read it...

Just imagining it drains blood from my face.

“I’ll go and look for it so go home without me guys!”

Not waiting for other’s reply, I sprint back into the school.

Run! Hurry up!

Before anyone else picks it up I need to take back my [Bloody Bible]!

Part 5

Since Ando ran back to find his notebook back we decided that four of us will go back on our own. We thought about waiting for him but since he told us to go back first we decided to follow his words.

“Ju-Kun is such a klutz~? Tomoyo.”

Hatoko, who was walking beside me suddenly let out hopeless laugh and said, turning toward me.

“Ah, I forgot. I need to call you by your alias. Umm, eh, what was it...”

“Drop it, this kind of thing. Ando, that guy who brought it out in the first place will forget about it by tomorrow morning.”

Beside from that if they don't really stop it'll be super embarrassing.

“Fufu, okay then~”

This time Hatoko laughed like she's enjoying herself.

Relationship between Ando and Hatoko is full of mystery. By the looks of it they've been known each other for a long time as childhood friends, but it looks like they both deeply understand each other well and don't understand each other at all at the same time.

Hatoko feels like Ando's mother or an older sister, but at times she feels like his daughter or younger sister .

It's full of mystery.

But if there's one thing that's certain, Hatoko does not understand Ando's Chuunibyou at all. It must be said she's got no knowledge at all.

To give an easy example, it's like asking if you can explain Chuunibyou to your own mother. To people who don't know at all there's no use in explaining, no use at all.

It's a privilege of those chosen to be Chuunibyou, or maybe for those who has not been chosen.

It's not like everyone can understand its value.

... Wait a minute. I'm totally thinking like Chuunibyou right now. Woah, Ando's bad influence rubbed off on me...

"Alias huh..."

"What is it? Hatoko."

"Ah~ yeah. I was just thinking about the past... to tell you the truth, I was bullied when I was in primary school."

"What?"

I froze up at sudden turn to dark topic. Sayumi-san and Chifuyu who were walking in front of us also stopped and turned around.

In sudden turn of the mood, Hatoko realised what had happened and hurriedly waved her hands.

"B-But it wasn't really much of bullying. In fact it really wasn't' bullying at all~"

Then she made self-despairing smile and continued.

"I was called Yakitori-chan back then~ because my last name is Kushikawa, so it came from 'Skewer' and 'Skin' and my given name being called 'Pigeon'." <TN Kushi means skewer, Kawa means Skin and Hato means pigeon.> Yakitori huh, it's not intentionally bad name but it's also not a name girl would like to be called.

"Guys calling me 'Yakitori' were all my friends, since they called it friendly I really couldn't tell them to stop... I wouldn't mind it too much if it was now, but back then I really hated being called that..."

Innocence of children, often are cruel.

The side that gave her that name probably didn't have bad intentions, and most likely started to call her such out of friendliness.

But such innocent act sometimes hurt others.

For young Hatoko being called Yakitori must have been stressful, even I would have hated it.

"The person who helped me back then was Ju-Kun."

Hatoko said.

While light slightly shining in her eyes.

“Ju-Kun said ‘I can’t forgive such lame nickname!’ and gave me a new nickname~”

“.....”

Wait a minute. That’s so much like him, but how does that link with solution?

More than that this guy, he was like this since when he was a kid.

“Hmm~ let’s see. I think the nickname he gave back then was... ‘Fire Phoenix’.”

... Maybe Phoenix because of Hato (Pigeon). Well it’s not like I can’t understand his reasoning.

Well as expected of primary school kid, nickname sounds nice since it’s so simple.

“After that everyone said ‘Eh, if we have to call her something so lame like that we'd rather call her Hatoko-chan from now on’ so that is how they stopped calling me Yakitori-chan.”

Hatoko was telling her past with big smile on her face. Without thinking I said.

“... Hatoko. You aren’t really thinking that Ando calculated all this?”

“Hahaha. Even I don’t believe that~ Ju-kun was depressed for a while after that.”

That’s so like him.

“Ju-kun was just doing what he wanted right?”

Yeah that must be it. Ando I know is person like that. Sayumi-san and Chifuyu-chan seems like they had same opinion with us so they constantly nodded their head.

“But still. I think Ju-kun helped me back then.”

“... That’s right.”

Sayumi-san said in a dark tone.

“It is true that Ando-kun is such an idiot that we can’t do anything about, but I think he’s surprisingly reliable person.”

Saying that, she placed both her hands on her chest, slowly closing them.

“For example my power [Route of Origin], a power which turns every object back to how it was. When I first obtained this power there was one question I had in my mind... I wondered if I could bring dead back to life.”

That must have been something she couldn’t have avoided thinking about.

Just like how, if there was a character in manga that had same ability as her, they would have to address this at the very beginning.

“But thanks to Ando-kun... I was relieved.”

Since six months ago we had countless amounts of meetings. In our very first meeting there was something Ando had said.

--- Please listen carefully Sayumi-san.

--- Please don’t ever try to bring dead person back to life.

--- Not even animals.

--- This is not about being able to or not being able to. Please don’t even think about trying.

Back then Ando was deadly serious.

“I realised now why that was. Power that can bring dead back to life, it should never exist in our world. If I ever succeed in such a feat after testing it, I don’t think I’ll be able to keep myself sane.”

Unlike her normal self, she spoke in a small and trembling voice.

Real life isn’t like Dragonball. It won’t be like ‘He’s no longer dead let’s all cheer~’ in real life.

If Sayumi-san did have power to bring person back to life...

... It’s scary just to think about it.

“He also spoke with Chifuyu.”

Suddenly Chifuyu raised her voice.

“Ando told me to never create life.”

That’s right. Ando also said something similar to this child.

--- Chifuyu-chan. You can make anything you want.

--- But you must never create human, never create life.

--- Never. Please promise me this.

Ando has... That Chuunibyou Ando said such a thing.

One day our power had awakened and when everyone was panicking, he was the only one keeping cool head and said such things.

Ando Jurai, who must have gone through many number of simulations before was able to accommodate everyone half a year ago.

“Back then I did lose my composure. Now I know how dangerous it is to revive someone, but during the time when my power was awakened I don’t know what I would have done. I could have well made a mistake and caused an accident.”

The person who stopped me back then was Ando-Kun. Sayumi-san added at the end.

At those words Chifuyu-chan nodded her head as well. If Ando wasn’t there for this child back then, she could have created human or animals without thinking much about it.

“Ju-kun thought hard about our powers as well~”

At Hatoko’s words, Sayumi-san agreed.

“Ando-kun has thought about our powers more than we have. He contemplated, analysed, sometimes imagined, sometimes calculated. He also gave us nice names as well. Although it was a lame Chuuni name.”

I know very well what they are trying to say.

Everyone here, we were scared.

Suddenly gaining power like God we were scared and weren’t able to do anything.

But Ando, even though his own power has nothing in value whatsoever--- power so weak that if we decided to suddenly ambush him he won't be able to last more than 5 seconds but he wasn't afraid of us.

He took care of us until the very end.

He said that our powers which can only be weapons are 'cool'

Now that I think about it, when he gave us that Chuuni name he said something.

--- Keke. Now with this half of your power is mine.

--- I will bind them with this name. Kuhahahaha!

That guy... he's shouldering half of our weight for us.

"... Yeah."

But I smirked and spoke.

It wasn't like me to think highly of him.

"That's thinking too much. He's just done whatever he wanted to do right? His chuuni imagination has just gone wild. There is definitely no way he had deeper meaning."

When I laughed it off, Hatoko and Sayumi-san chuckled.

"That's right. Only thing Ando-kun is thinking about is his chuunibyou scenario."

"He said that his alias has increased~ how great of him, Ju-kun."

When we were laughing away, Chifuyu took quick steps and pulled on my skirt.

"What's up?"

"Chifuyu lied before."

"Before?"

"When we were talking about chunni."

Ah, back then.

“I was embarrassed, so I lied.”

Chifuyu said.

Rubbing her face on my blazer, looking embarrassed.

“Ando, actually he’s really cool.”

“.....”

We did not deny her praise.

We could not deny it.

“Ando, such Chuuni.”

“That’s right; Ju-kun is such chuuni.”

“He’s such a chuunibyou.”

“He’s pile of chuunibyou work.”

Part 6

“Achooo!”

I ended up sneezing spectacularly inside school void of any human interaction.

“Oioi. Looks like Freischtuz was sniping me with their extra-long range magic sniping.”

That’s dangerous. If I didn’t lower my body when sneezing there would be a hole in my head right now.

Anyway I hope it is fine. Note of dark history... no my [Bloody Bible].

To imagine someone is reading it... I want to just die.

Actually, I’m not embarrassed at all of the content in that note. [Bloody Bible] is my pride, and what’s written in it is truth of this world?

But even so... right?

It’s not good to show the truth of this world to anybody?

... Anyway I can’t show that to anyone!

I sprinted toward Literature club room.

“... Eh?”

When I arrived in front of the club room door a guy was standing in front of it. He was tall and skinny with long legs. His hair was bright silver, and he was wearing black clothing, his style was coordinated into bright and stylish outfit, like a band member.

He was wearing circular sunglasses.

On his hand... he was holding a black notebook.

“Ah. Nooooo!”

I screamed and sprinted toward the guy. This is bad! He saw it! I saw the [Bloody Bible]!

By the guy who just looks like a Riajuu! <TN it means youth/youngster or someone in a relationship> “Aaa aaa aaa aaa.”

Well I just randomly screamed so I couldn't help but suddenly become shy around that guy.

“Is this yours?”

He said in a low and cool voice. When I got near him he was actually a handsome guy.

Damn... of all people a handsome guy read it...

“Yeah yeah that’s mine.”

“This notebook. You call it [Bloody Bible]?”



“... Y-Yeah.”

“Does that mean that you are the person whose name is in written here, [Guiltia Sin Jurai]?”

“..... Yes.”

Humiliation that rips through my body attacked me. Shit, what he’s saying is undeniable truth so I shouldn’t be so embarrassed... Kuuuuaaaaa! I wanna die!

Since I was about to go completely insane, he just raised side of his mouth smugly and returned my [Bloody Bible]... and said.

“You’ve got good naming sense..”

“... Yes?”

“‘Guiltia’ as in Guilty, while ‘Sin’ also makes it like wrongdoing. Person full of sin as double meaning. ‘sin’ also relate to god, connoting a being that carries more sin than that can be repented. Furthermore ‘Guiltia’ gestures Arcadia and Utopia. Meaning something like Sinful Paradise. To finish it off Cursed Thunder... gives me chills.”

Receiving my book I couldn’t close my mouth. I was ready to be ridiculed but. It was an unexpected development.

To be... praised as such.

Not only that... to be understood.

“[Bloody Bible] eh. This is a coincidence; I own something of similar sort.

With that said he brings out pitch black note from his body. On its front page Upside-down cross was drawn.

“I call this [Scripture Abandoned by God (Reverse Crux Record)]”

“R-Reverse Crux... Upside down crosses. Symbol of rebel against God, Cross of the fallen...”

I was so surprised how cool it was. So cool, Reverse Crux is so cool.

Seeing how satisfied at his answer, he showed deeper smile.

“My name is Kiryuu Heldkaiser Luci First. However I am known in this world by my temporary moniker Kiryuu Hajime.”

True name and temporary moniker.

Doki suddenly something inside of me moved.

“... [Heldkaiser] means hell and kaiser, thus recalling Ruler of Hell. Not only that making it perfective by using [Held] it make it sound so bleak that even hell has fallen. Furthermore by adding [Luci] and [First] you make [Lucifer], a fallen angel... every part of that name symbolises the rebellion against God... It’s so cool that I get goose bumps.”

And the best part is using Kiryuu’s katakana... <?>

“Keke.”

Kiryuu-san made unique dry laugh. It was similar to how I usually laugh.

“You’re the best.”

He’s laughing like he’s enjoying here. I stared at his face. I can see part of his eyes over his sunglasses. Only his left eye had crimson colour.

Odd Eye, or maybe coloured lenses?

“Hmm? Ah.”

When we realised my gaze he corrected his sunglasses.

“Oh I do apologise. I nearly took control of you with my Evil Eye.”

“E-Evil Eye...”

“I didn’t have this right eye from when I was born. I have inherited this forbidden eye from someone long gone now. Sometimes it goes wild so I’m wearing these sunglasses to stop that.”

Evil Eye. It sounded chilling to my soul. I’m sure that he purposely moved his sunglasses when he was giving my notebook back but it’s so cool I’ll forget about that.

“Evil Eye huh. You own something quite dangerous... Ku arrrg.”

“Oi, what’s happening? You alright?”

Kiryuu-san held his breath looking at me who was grabbing my arms. Well I'm actually alright, but to his eyes my right arm looks like something terrifying.

"That right arm... You, could it be..."

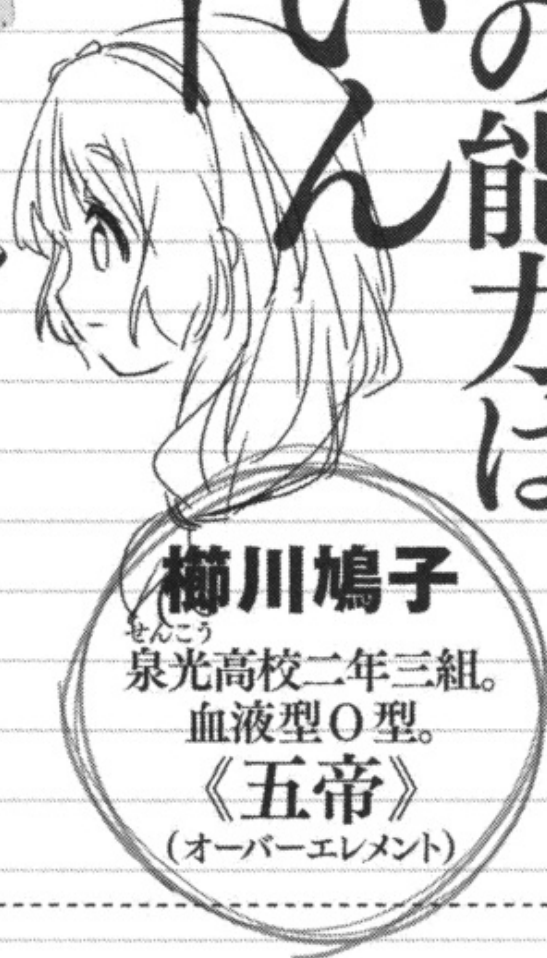
Finishing by saying 'could it be' and leaving me to finish! This guy, he knows it too well!

"No, I'm okay... This happens frequently. It hasn't been listening to me lately; I'll be teaching it some lessons next time."

"For you to have 'such thing' in your right arm at that age... You, what kind of hell did you see?"

"... Fufufu, aren't you the same?"

どうして
ジュークんの能力は
しよぼいん
だろーねー



櫛川鳩子

せんこう
泉光高校二年三組。

血液型O型。

《五帝》

(オーバーエレメント)

属性支配の異能。

風火水土光の五つの属性を自由自在に操る。

通常のファンタジーだったらここにもう一つ闇属性でも入るんだろうが、そもそも闇ってなんなんだろう。闇っていうのは『光がない状態』を指す言葉であり、だから闇の攻撃とかよく考えると意味不明過ぎる。光も一応は物質だが、闇は物質でもなんでもない、ただの現象だ。暗黒物質（ダークマター）もただ光学的には観測できないってだけで闇そのものってわけじゃないし……。

しかし、闇というのはただそれだけでかっこいいのでオールオッケー！

闇、かっけー。ダーク、かっけー。

“Ha, that ain’t wrong too.”

“Kuku”

“Keke”

Me and Kiryuu-san laughed meaninglessly.

No! There is a meaning!

Meaning that only us two understand!

“Keke. My goodness, I came here to play at literature club but I found someone with talent right? Guiltia Sin Jurai.”

“I sense destiny in this meeting. Kiryuu Heldkaiser Luci First.”

We when stare at each other.

It feels like I’m looking at a mirror. Feels like two sides of a coin, same person. But not of equal being. Contradiction of him being someone else but feeling of being twins.

Two beings, walking the path parallel to each other, never to interact. This is First Contact.

Between him and i... the war that’s going to shake up our entire universe have started from this day forward.

“... But Literature club? What business do you have with our literature club?”

“Ah, I’m alumni here. I got fired from my part time yesterday so I got free. I came to play.”

“.....”

Ara, this is strange. It feels like fate has disappeared to somewhere.

Chapter 3: A Fated Meeting

There's a nationwide franchised Family Restaurant in walking distance from our school.

Not even three minutes have passed since I met with Kiryuu-san and we are already in sync with each other, I wonder if we were husband and wife in the past life. We soon reached a conclusion that we should move somewhere and talk more slowly and thus we headed towards the Family Restaurant.

Restaurant was full of various customers. Everyone from students to families were there, me and Kiryuu-san decided to seat towards the inner part of the restaurant at smoking area and called the waitress to take our order.

I ordered Black coffee for me.

..... To be honest I've got no idea why people drink such a thing, but since I'm a man it has to be black. Because it's cool that way.

Kiryuu-san seemed like he was starved as he ordered huge amount of food including Omelette Rice, Hamberg steak, Pasta Carbonara, choco-parfait *etc.*

"It's not bad, these kind things."

After consuming all the food in front of him, he spoke while narrowing his eyes gloomily.

With mild gaze he looked at people around us. Student couple who are not even trying to hide that they have recently became a couple (go die!), to a child eating his children's set happily with his mother next to him.

"Even in this rotten world, there are plenty of laughing faces. Maybe that is enough reason for this world's continuous existence."

'What the hell is he saying'... is definitely not what I'm thinking. I know, Kiryuu-san, I understand you.

Understanding everything he is saying, I agreed in exaggerated fashion.

"These moments in our daily lives that can even make us forget the madness of battlefield... it definitely isn't bad."

“... To forget. Maybe to lose all our memories might be the happiest thing we could ask for. However... that’s impossible for me. Tragedy dyed red with blood, chain reaction of hatred, they won’t be erased however long I wait... I right now can still remember the faces of those who faded away.”

“First... so that means you still...”

Finish at ‘still’. You can’t interrupt the other’s flow.

Oh and FYI, we are now calling each other ‘First’ and ‘Guilthia’.

“Damn... such a useless power.”

He speaks with expression full of sadness and pain.

I think he has Photographic memory ability. Ability that makes you not forgets something after seeing it for the first time. It may seem like a handy ability but, it really isn’t.

Humans... Have this blessing called oblivion. Not being able to forget a painful past, that is what you can call hell.

... Except, before coming here this guy just said ‘Let’s go to that Family Restaurant over there. Ah, eh what was the name there... Can’t remember’, but let’s not get into detail right now.

It’s totally ‘Making myself look cool by having ability I don’t want’ scenario.

“... Keke”

Kiryuu-san wiped resenting expression from his face and now smiled like he is having fun.

“Andou, is your real name Jurai? That’s really cool.”

Since he called me Andou I understood that we are no longer talking in chunni.

It seems like Kiryu-san also understand deep inside his head that things he does is just a make-believe like me.

Which means he’s not totally out of his mind. He is able to distinguish TPO [\[1\]](#) and switch between ON and OFF mode.

I didn’t want to acknowledge this but... I am still Andou Jurai. Although if I

constantly think about fictional scenarios I feel like I might really become deluded.

Well, at least I've awakened my ability now. Kuku.

"Thank you very much. But Kiryu-san's name Kiryu is also really cool."

"Well that's true. I really like my surname, but I'm not too fond of my name Hajime."

"Is that so? I think its fine. It's similar to Saito Hajime of Shinsengumi."

"True, Saito Hajime is definitely cool."

"I'm more fan of Saito than Kenshin."

"Same, same. Gatotsu is definitely a killer move."

Obviously when we are talking about Saito Hajime we aren't talking about the real person, but the character from Rurouni kenshin!

"Talking about Gatotsu, you know those people who shout 'Gatotsu!' with stick or umbrella on their right hand? That really pisses me off. Those who don't know that the origin of Gatotsu came from left hand jab shouldn't be allowed to play with such technique."

"Yeah that pisses me off! I totally understand you there! It gets worse when you meet someone who barely has any knowledge of it too. For example, noisy girls who go and say things like 'Chopper is so cute!' even though they don't even read One Piece."

"So true! That is so annoying, annoying girls."

We are really in sync.

Damn, I really enjoy talking to this guy.

"But I think you've got amazing naming sense making Hajime(一) into 'First', and joining word 'Lucifer'. [Kiryu Heldkaiser Luci-First]. Really, I'm falling in love with that name."

"Don't give me such praise; your name is also great. Also those Alias and Technique Names written in that [Bloody Bible], they are all marvellous."

Oh... Right, this guy read my [Bloody Bible].

It's embarrassing, but since I got praised I'm happy.

"Power to restore anything... [Route of Origin], this here you are combining the meaning of Route as in road, and Root meaning beginning right? That's good naming sense."

How does he know even when I didn't explain it to him?!

Wow wow wow, I'm so happy!

That was something I never mentioned to anyone since it'll be like explaining my own joke to them!

"This one was also good, Dark flames of Purgatory... [Dark and Dark]. It's cool using the word 'Dark' twice."

Spot on! It's important to say it twice!

Aaaah really. I like this guy!

I want to marry him!

"I'm guessing that simple names are to your taste?"

"If you say it like that yes. I like to make names with four letters and give it long Ruby."

"For me, I like longer names. Ones that can easily make a sentence."

"Ah~ that's also great."

Well, this is all down to personal preference.

"Ah, sorry. I've got a call."

Kiryu-san pulled out his phone and suddenly changed his expression to serious expression.

"Reatier? It's me."

"....."

That was definitely not name of human!

Maybe he was faking the call even though no one called him just to try sounding mysterious. Even then, I won't ask.

“What? Oioi, that’s job for you [War Management Committee], don’t push your mistake onto me.”

I didn’t ask.

“Those guys who are trying to destroy the system [P], you are saying that let’s pause the war right now and all of us go and kill them off. So boring.”

He explained his conversation in such detail but, I didn’t ask.

“Fine, I’ll do it. I was planning on squishing those guys sooner or later. I’ll teach them once and for all who the true emperor of this war is.”

I didn’t ask.

“Power on par with God? Don’t care. Whether they are God or whatever else. if they stand in front of my way... will be sent to the heavenly hell.”

Kiryu-san finished his call and said to me.

“Sorry. It was from manager where I part-time.”

Such lies! That phrase came so close to my mouth but I still didn’t ask about the details.

It’s our manner.

Well that’s that, but making fake calls looks fun, maybe I should start doing it too.

“What were we talking about? Ah, yes yes, Chuuni names.”

“.....Yes.”

I felt the heat has died down a bit.

Chuunibyou

At his subtle nuance, how should I say it, the enjoyable feeling has died down a bit.

This confirms that Kiryu-san knew he is indeed one of Chuunibyou.

Chuunibyou is definitely cool but... nevertheless you still feel the contempt in the word Chuunibyou.

“Hey, what’s up. You face is dark.”

“Nothing... So, Kiryu-san thinks people like us are Chuunis?”

“Hmm? Yeah.”

At my question Kiryu-san smiled softly and answered.

“Yeah well if you think about it, the word Chuunibyou is definitely used to discriminate, it is not something you give it to yourself. It’s not something to be happy about being called...”

He leaned forward and said such things like he’s seen my mind.

“Do you know of [Don Quixote]?”

“... Ah, um. You mean that mall?”

“That’s Don Quijote.”

“One of shichibukai (warlord) from One Piece...”

“That’s Donquixote Doflamingo. He was the inspiration of it.”

Kiryu-san then proceeded to explain in detail without showing any frustration.

[Don Quixote]

17th century novel written by Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes.

The story is about this low-class Nobel who has read so many stories that he himself believes that he is a legendary knight, gave himself a grandiose title ‘Don Quixote’, riding on his old horse Rocinante he goes on an adventure to right the all that is wrong in this world with his servant Sancho Panzer.

It’s a story where he is captured within his own imagination he decides that a country girl to be princess that long for him, thinking wind mill to be a monster and charging toward it, he goes in an adventure repeating things that makes him look like a weirdo.

Heh, I never knew of this story.

I have previously dived into Greek mythology, Bible and occult but I don’t know well with such literature.

... Well even though I said ‘dived in’ it’s more like reading Wikipedia article and just snicker.

Dived in, more like dipping the toe in.

But... this [Don Quixote] story takes priority right now. The main character, he's really like.....

"You think he's got bad case of Chuunibyou right?"

At his words I agreed. That's right, this is Chuunibyou. He believes for certainty that he is special person; shout out his real name, not only that think of some original setting one after another.

What can we call it beside Chuunibyou?

"When [Don Quixote] got first published people thought of it as just a comedic novel where the main character does pitiful acts. But as time passed that opinion has changed."

I naturally paid attention to the present voice that was explaining it to me.

Just like being pulled into invisible force.

"Dostoyevsky who's famous for [Crime and Punishment] said about this novel that 'the deepest and most paradoxical face of human soul has been wonderfully extracted by great poet, person who penetrate inside human mind.'. 'From all the books that have been created by geniuses hand this is the best and most sorrowful story.' And gave this book a high praise."

"... Highly praised a book, where main character is Chuunibyou."

Deepest and most paradoxical face.

Best and most sorrowful story.

"The word Chuunibyou came into existence only recently. However the element of Chuunibyou existed ever since [Don Quixote] era. No, ever since long ago, I'm sure that concept of Chuunibyou existed ever since Human kind has been born and societies have developed."

And thus only recently they have been able to name these phenomena.

Kiryu-san finished his sentence and fixed his sunglasses. Just then, I felt like his right eye gave off strange shine.

"Hey Andou. What's your understanding of Chuunibyou."

At sudden question I stuttered but somehow I brought words out of my mouth.

“I... think it’s about not lying to yourself.”

I said answer that I gave before.

Although I was embarrassed, I suppressed such feelings and spoke out my mind.

I felt that against this guy I need to at least do that much.

“Good answer, but sounds abstract.”

Kiryuu-san pulled side of his mouth up and smiled like he’s enjoying this.

Fitting of expression of Smirk.

“The origin of Chuunibyou, although its types are different, is all the same. Start with self-denial, because they don’t like themselves or the world they are living in, so they make different a world for themselves or a false world. However that feeling can be said to be longing for self-acceptance.”

“.....”

“As much as wanting to become different form of yourself, you want yourself right now to be accepted as well. Just as you want to become a hero in other world, you want to be praised in your current world. The never ending paradox of self-hatred and self-acceptance. This is the origin of Chuunibyou.”

“Never ending paradox...”

“Endless Paradox.”

I swallowed hard.

What... is this coincidence.

What... is this fate.

“Many human cannot endure this paradox and end up throwing it away. To become an ‘adult’. Then the person adopt into environment surrounding them and live on. Simply put, it’s a transition from ‘Me who’s different from this world. Is cool’ to ‘Me who adopted this world. Is cool’.”

Kiryu-san sighed at that point. The slightly sorrowful scene, with his delicate looks, make it looks like scene of goddess who deplore foolishness of human kind.

However in his eyes, quiet fury is burning.

“‘Become an adult’, ‘Become an adult’... this guy and that guy all says same word like some fools. ‘To become an adult’ means ‘To become one who can live in society with others’. Most human think this is virtue and lives on. No, they want to believe this.”

“..... You are saying that ‘Becoming an adult’ is a bad thing?”

“That’s not it. Just that Chuunibyou and adults aren’t compatible, since chuunibyou is children’s privilege... but sometimes there comes guys like me and you ‘ones who can’t become adult’. Ones who can hold on to that paradox without change, stage 5 chuunibyou patients who can’t be treated.”

“It... sounds like superpower that comes up in supernatural battle. Like how everyone’s got the talent, but only the chosen one can unlock that potential.”

“That’s a good example. Well it’s something like that.”

Kiryu-san nodded like he was satisfied and took a cigarette out from his pocket. Spinning around his flashy zippo he lit his cigarette with swift motion.

... His zippo trick looks cool.

He must have practised this lot back at his house.

“History of human kind can be called history of Chuunibyou. Edison who questioned the concept of $1 + 1$. Copernicus who rejected the Geocentric model, Wright brothers who never doubted that we can fly, Einstein who doubted the light. Do you get it? People who made the world go around are Chuunibyous who said ‘Me who’s different from this world. Is cool’ till very end.”

I wondered how they will feel about treating great people from history as Chuuni patients but it’s not something farfetched.

I heard that people who are regarded as geniuses are also beyond weird.

“Power that controls this world is Chuuni.”

Declaring such thing, he smirked.

It was smile that looked down upon everything, but at the same time felt meaningless.

Simply put, it was chuuni-style smile.

At that moment.

“Eh? Andou.”

At the entrance of the Family Restaurant, I saw a familiar shadow.

“Tomoyo. What are you doing here?”

I asked her who was walking towards us.

Ah, I forgot to call her by her alias. Oh well, it’s bothersome now.

“I came here to study. I use this place quite a bit.”

“Others?”

“They went back. We said ‘Since Andou isn’t here, let’s enjoy ourselves and hang around the station too. We’ve all gone our way now.’”

“What’s that tone saying it’s more fun without me?!”

“Ah, that’s....”

“Don’t stutter! What is this?! Am I being left out?!”

“.....”

“Don’t just avoid eye contact! This actually feels real!”

“L-Let’s hang out together next time Andou.”

“That’s that ‘Next time’ that never comes right?! That's "Next time" a way to deceive someone peculiar to Japanese people right?! There are plenty of foreigners who have trouble understanding that you know!”

“Leaving that aside Andou.”

This girl just evaded the matter. I do think that was just a joke but it’s really bad for my heart so I wish she quit it.

“Did you find your Vivre?”

“Don’t call it Vivre. Yeah I found it; this kind person picked it up for me.”

I gestured toward Kiryu-san. Tomoyo turned her attention towards him then.

“..... Eh?”

Her eye became wide open and her face froze, dropping her bag on the floor.

“Keke”

At that timing, Kiryu-san laughed.

“It’s been a while, [Endless Paradox].”

I’m surprised at words Kiryu-san said. That is Tomoyo’s.....

“Hajime-nii-chan...”

Tomoyo spoke in cracked voice.

“E-Eh? N-Nii-chan?!”

At sudden revelation I couldn’t hide my shock. But Kiryu-san and Tomoyo ignored me and continued their conversation.

“It’s not Hajime-nii-chan. It’s Kiryu Heldkaiser Luci-First.”

“Again with your weird name...”

“Keke. I do think that this name has less of Chuuni power than your [Endless Paradox] you thought of when you were in Middle school.”

“D-Don’t talk about when I was in Middle school!”

It sounds like Tomoyo thought of [Endless Paradox] back when she was in Middle School.

That’s it then. Just as I thought. This girl, she was like that in the past.

High School debut I guess.

“S-Stop with your grining!”

Red faced Tomoyo shouted at me. But maybe she didn’t have anything to do with me, she turned her attention back to Kiryu-san.

“..... Hajime-nii-chan. When did you come back? Also that hair...”

“Ahh... Colour of this hair suddenly drained when that guy got slaughtered in front of me. Due to his anger toward this world and rage toward himself...”

“No, your hair turned back to black on its roots... and that red right eye of yours too..”

“You remember too right? This is... that guy’s right eye...”

“..... So today’s right side. You always changed which eye you put coloured lenses every day saying it’s not good for balance.”

“Is that so. That guy did put on that allusion on you right.”

“Who is this ‘that guy’...”

Kiryu-san who’s immersed in Chuunibyou and Tomoyo who’s rejecting it.

They looked very close to each other.

“... You know, Hajime-nii-chan. Why don’t you come back?”

“I refuse.”

“Everyone’s worried. Dad has also stopped being angry.”

“I said I refuse.”

His tone was full of anger and irritation. He, who was smiling ever since I met him, has shown his anger for the first time.

“Tell dad when you get back. ‘Please send this month’s allowance as well.’.”

“.....”

Wait, what is this guy saying in angry tone.

Things he’s saying while angry sound so unsophisticated!

That mature talk about ‘becoming adult’ is all being washed away.

“If you’re going to run away then just become independent.”

Tomoyo deeply sighed. Her eyes were those of seeing her family’s embarrassments.

“We are being interrupted. Our phantasmal talk ends here, Guiltia.”

Kiryu-san put out his cigarette and stood up.

“We were just able to renew our ties from past lives... it’s a pity.”

“We will meet again, First. If you are the chosen one.”

“Keke.”

“Kuku.”

“What the hell are you guys talking about?! So disgusting!”

Please, don’t draw attention and don’t say disgusting.

Kiryu-san walked past Tomoyo toward the exit.

At that moment, he put his hand on her shoulder naturally. Tomoyo didn’t show her dislike and accepted that body contact like it was nothing.

It may sound strange, but with that I confirmed that these two are indeed family.

“Ah, that’s right Andou.”

On his way out, Kiryu-san called me ‘Andou’. Turning Chuunibyou mode off.

“I just heard your Chuunibyou name so, although it’s not like apologising or anything, but I’ll let you hear my name.”

“Ah, that’s fine. You don’t have to do that.”

“Don’t be like that, just listen.”

I guess he just wanted to say it.

Kiryu-san lowered his sunglasses and showed his eyes.

One pitch black and one crimson.

“Both madness and a weapon, a calamitous disaster, the power of destruction to even topple the heaven.

<Fallen Angel’s Hammer Drops on Fools [Lucifer Strike]>

... That is my detested name, and name of the power that can ruin this world.”

“

Doki

Doki-doki-doki-doki-doki. [\[2\]](#)

From the bottom of my heart... My deepest part of soul is feeling, like being afraid of a mysterious being, or being delighted at an encounter with an unknown; the deepest part of my soul is boiling with emotions.

I have felt something from him that does not exist in realm of cool and uncool.

“[Dark and Dark]. Wheel of fate will lead you and I together. I will look forward to that moment and wait for you.”

Leaving mysterious words, he left the restaurant. Well since people like him and I often talk in mysterious ways and enjoy ourselves so I’m not too bothered.

Tomoyo sighed once again and sat where Kiryu-san was sitting until now.

“So he was Tomoyo’s brother...”

“Embarrassingly so.”

“What can I say... it’s hard to analyse his character. I can’t understand what he’s thinking at all.”

Not that I mind, in fact, I like it.

But from start to finish I couldn’t understand what he was thinking. It’s hard to judge which was joke and which he meant.

He gave off overwhelming aura, outline of his character was so fuzzy I couldn’t figure him out.

Just like a fog.

Like a thick fog that no matter how hard you tried, you will never get rid of.

“Yeah true. Hajime-nii-chan was like that ever since back then.”

“So Tomoyo’s incomparable sense is because of him.”

“.....”

Tomoyo turned her face away, her cheek was a bit red.

Now that I think about it she did say that reason she know so much about

manga and anime is because of her older brother. If you've got such overwhelming brother like him even if you hate it you will naturally know about these things one way or another.

"But wait? Kanzaki and Kiryu... aren't your surnames different?"

"Yeah. We're half-siblings."

Half-siblings. I was wondering why they didn't look alike, but to think that only half of their blood are same.

"We've got same dad but different mum. Kiryu is Hajime-nii-chan's mother's surname. We've been living together since childhood but, Kiryu-nii-chan's been using his mother's surname."

"Ha, sounds complicated."

"Do you want to hear the story?"

"Do you want to tell the story?"

"Not in particular."

"Then that's fine."

"Yeah."

Tomoyo then lowered her gaze toward the ash tray. She looked at the cigarette butt that Kiryu-san left, then as remembering her past started to talk about him.

"Hajime-nii-chan has always been great since past. Intelligent, clean cut, excellent in martial art. Always 1st or 2nd in High School mock test. He was in literature club in High School but in Middle School he did athletics and competed in national event. Like Kudo Shinichi or Light Yagami's level."

"Woah, that's brilliant."

So he's like easily way above average person's levels then.

"But since a year ago he left word saying 'This world is flawed' and ran away from home, quitting university..."

"That's awesome!"

It may seem cool, but it's totally stupid thing to do!

It's laughably stupid!

"Oh ho. So in order to find her missing brother, Tomoyo decided to join the literature club that her brother once was part of in order to find clues."

"No, it's not that cliché at all. I just joined literature club that's all. It's not like we've lost contact with him too..."

Tomoyo lowered and scratched back of her head looking embarrassed, she looked uncomfortable since little while ago. it seems like she's bit embarrassed that someone saw her family.

There aren't anyone who's comfortable introducing their family member to their friend.

Me too, I get embarrassed when someone meets my sister.

"Hey Andou. Now that I think about it, Hajime-nii-chan called you [Dark and Dark]."

"Ah, he read my [Bloody Bible]."

"..... What?"

"What's that with your blue face?! It's fine! I actually got praised!"

“... Ah, is that so... Maybe he’ll praise such things. Well that’s that. You, although I don’t think you did, but you didn’t talk about our powers right?”

She looked at me like wanting to get an assurance.

“I didn’t. Don’t sell me short.”

I did think what would happen if I told him, but I wouldn’t really give our secret away.

We will not tell anyone of our powers.

This is what we decided in literature club.

“Okay, if that’s so.”

“... But. He was amazing person.”

I said it genuinely. Nothing like mocking him, but praising him from bottom of my heart.

He was someone I haven’t ever met in my life.

I can’t describe him but to say amazing. maybe he’s just too gone far, but weirdly I didn’t feel weirded out by him.

“And also...”

I murmured while looking at receipt.

Adding everything 3,640 Yen (my coffee is 300 Yen).

“He just gave us his bill...”

“... Sorry. I’m really so sorry.”

Translation Notes and References

1. [↑](#) TN Time, Place Occasion
2. [↑](#) TN: Supposed to be sound of heart beat Editor: dhak is how we describe heartbeat where I live, if you don't like this one then thump thump is also an option

Chapter 4: The Charm of the Black Dragon

“Hey, hey~ Ju-kun. What are you doing~?”

After school, at the Literature Club’s clubroom Hatoko called out to me casually like she always does.

As always, everyone was present today. Sayumi-senpai was reading a difficult-looking book she managed to excavate from [God off] [\[1\]](#), and Chifuyu was just sitting there hugging her plushie.

Tomoyo, as usual, was doing something on her laptop.

Nothing seems to have changed since her meeting with Kiryu-san. She was acting like her usual self as if nothing had happened at all. Maybe she’s processing the incident with her brother inside her mind.

“Hatoko, it’s getting to the good part so, don’t bother me.”

I held back my childhood friend and went back to my work, however, Hatoko didn’t give up.

“Isn’t it fine. Tell me~”

“Arggggh really. Don’t shake my body! You’re ruining it!”

“Well. But you won’t tell me what you’re doing.”

“You can see it, right?”

“I’m asking because I don’t know what I’m looking at~”

I let out a sigh of disbelief, and showed her my left hand which had a pen in its grip, and my right arm with my blazer tucked up and explained something that was very obvious.

“I’m drawing Black Dragon on my right arm.”

Kachann!

I heard something shattering. Looking up, I saw that Tomoyo had dropped her teacup and her body was frozen in motion.

“You really are... You really are...”

“Snap out of it Tomoyo-chan. You must hold it together.”

Sayumi-senpai shook Tomoyo’s shoulder, and with smooth motion, she activated her [Route of Origin] and fixed Tomoyo’s broken teacup.

They weren’t even being discrete.

“Calm down please. Without a doubt, Ando-kun isn’t a resident of this planet.”

“Sayumi-senpai... Yes, that must be true. That idiot must be some kind of alien from somewhere.”

“No way! How did you know that I am a mix of an earthling and the leader of Rig Naan, a nomad space race of warriors?

“..... Can you not take an insult as a joke?”

Sayumi-senpai freaked out. Nu, I thought I countered that quite nicely.

“I have no idea why you Chuunis like to be a mixed race.” [\[2\]](#)

Tomoyo gave harsh criticism. Well mixed blood is quite a basic scenario. Like a part devil or a part monster or a part vampire. How should I say this.. it makes it more exciting!

“It’s easier for plot progression when you’re a mixed blood. Because of being mixed blood you are in conflict or not being able to join either society and can be persecuted. It can be produced into any kind of sad drama. You can say that It’s a very easy concept to work with. So because of that maybe it’s been widely used in many works?”

Sayumi-senpai gave her realistic guess, one that was devoid of dreams and inspirations.

Well that may certainly be so... but please don’t say such things.

“So then Ando, what are you doing.”

“Didn’t I say it already? I’m drawing a Black Dragon on my right arm.”

“I mean, I would like you to explain the reason behind your eccentric behaviour.”

“It’s because I’ve got a right arm.”

“Stop with that ‘because mountain is there’ quote thing. Everyone’s got a right arm.” [\[3\]](#)

“What? Everyone’s got a right arm?! Hey you, have you forgotten the tragic story behind Edward Elric’s Automail?!”

“Why is FMA coming into picture here?! Stop being picky with my words!”

“Another reason is because I’ve got a Black Dragon in my heart [here]”

“There isn’t one! Also don’t write heart and read it as ‘here’!”

“Let’s talk seriously, I realised yesterday, that my dark personality cannot be limited to a human form.”

“... Sorry, but if that was serious talk, then I’ve got nothing more to say to you.”

“Now now, just listen. Our powers got awakened about half a year ago, right? At that time, couldn’t my dark personality that was nested inside me be fused with my power [Dark and Dark] and create the figure of an evil dark dragon?”

“Hmm, that’s true. There’s more to me than to reflectively criticise you every time, so it won’t be a good thing for me to deny Ando’s opinion from the beginning. That’s why I shall think this through... Nope! There’s no way that’s possible!”

My theory of the Black Dragon of dark personality had been shot down just like that.

It’s no use. Regardless of the age, theories that are far advanced for this time and age will always be criticised.

“Anyway, I’m in the process of conducting an important ritual that tames the dragon within me, so please don’t bother me.”

“Do whatever you want, Chuuni.”

Ending my conversation with Tomoyo, I went back to drawing my Black Dragon.

Hmm, but this is difficult. The reason it was so difficult, was because I'm right-handed, so that made it incredibly difficult to draw with my left hand.

Not only that, I've got zero talent for arts. How difficult would it be for my left hand when I can't even draw with my useful hand.

Realizing my pain, Hatoko once again started a conversation.

"Ju-kun, Why don't you just draw on your left arm using your right hand?"

"That won't do, since [Dark and Dark] dwells in my right arm."

"Is that so... Then you can't draw on your left arm~"

"Nope, I can't."

Hatoko and I silently thought this through.

On the other side.

"I wonder why Hatoko doesn't criticise Ando..."

"When those two talk, the atmosphere becomes peculiarly loose.."

I could feel the kind of conversation that Tomoyo and Sayumi-senpai were having, but I'll just ignore them.

For now, Black Dragon takes up most of my priority.

"Ah right, Ju-kun. I'll draw it for you then."

"What~? You will~?"

I didn't like the sound of it, but since Hatoko said that I should leave it to her, I unwillingly agreed. I'm using water based marker that could be erased at any moment, so it should be fine.

"Hatoko, you know, right? It's a Black Dragon, a Black Dragon."

"Yup it's dark dragon right? Leave it to me."

"Were you good at drawing?"

"I am not sure myself, but my friends call me an artist."

“Eh? In what sense?”

Originally it should be a praise, but I feel like the meaning had been changing as of late..

Not being bothered by my concerns, Hatoko played around with her pen joyfully.

“Now it’s all done~ Wow~ It’s a masterpiece.”

When I looked down at my right arm, There was a Long body of a dragon drawn on my skin. The dragon’s head, difficulty of which was the hardest, was done with flying colors.

One problem.....

“Why is the body drawn in as a straight line?!”

The Black Dragon on my right arm was lying down from the back of my hand to the elbow in one straight line! It was as if it had a ruler nailed to its back!

“Dragons should have a body that bends all the way around. If the body isn’t flexible, then it’s not a dragon.”

“Wha~? But it’s hard to draw bendy bodies. Also, that’s a bad posture.”

“Bad posture you say... that doesn’t matter. Dragons are beings with bad attitude .”

“Is that so~~ Dragons are delinquents, huh~”

“...Well, yeah. Dragons are delinquents. Anyway Hatoko, next time try to draw them with a bendy body.”

Because of that we started to draw again.

“It’s done~.”

“No, wait you, it’s the same as before! its body is still straight!”

“That’s not it~ Look closely, that body is all bendy and tangled.”

“You call this bendy?”

I couldn’t see it clearly since it was all pitch black, but Hatoko must have thought about a dragon twisted like a drill bit and drew the new picture. It

looked the same as before as it was still a 2-D drawing.

“It’s twisted like a tightly squeezed mop, see?”

“A mop?! Is this dragon alright?!”

“In all honesty, it’s dying.”

“So it was dying!”

“Because it’s twisted so much its body fluids came out.”



“This is its body fluids?! I thought it was spewing fire or something from it’s mouth! Why have you committed such a terrible deed!”

“But Ju-kun told me to make it bendy.”

“Bendy and twisted are two separate things.”

“Hmm, but If I want to make the drawing bendy and not go out of the arm, then should the gap be really small?”

“It’s fine if it goes out. It doesn’t matter if your drawing goes to the underside of my arm .”

“Ah really? Come on~ you should have told me earlier then.”

It looks like she had limited the canvas to the back of my hand. So I guess the reason behind the dragon having a straight body was because she wanted to stay within this limit.

Hatoko started to draw again.

“Ju-kun, I’m going to draw on the back side, so turn your hand~”

“Yup.”

“One more time.”

“Yup..... Ah wait. I only turned my arm once, my shoulder joint is already starting to hurt.”

“One more time~”

“Wait wait! My arm can’t turn anymore! My Joint is bent! It looks like some kind of Yoga pose! However many times I turn, I can’t shoot Gomu Gomu no Rifle!”

“Wait don’t move~ I’m still drawing here~”

“Ouch it hurts! I told you to stop! I don't have a tender shoulder joint that could pitch a moving fastball like the protagonist of Ace of Diamond you know!”

“..... Ah.”

“HEEEEEEEY! Just now, what was that dreaded ‘Ah’ for?! What have you

done?!”

“Ju-kun. You have a mole here~”

“A mole! That’s got nothing to do with this!”

“A Mole is important~ Even JUMP has basketball manga like that.”

“That’s [Kuroko no Basket]! You read that as Kuroko.” [\[4\]](#)

“Now, Ju-kun. Once more.”

“AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAARG! My arm’s breaking! Something crucial inside me is being crushed.....!”

CRACK!

“AAAAAAAAAARG! IT BROKE!”

It gave off a terrific sound!

It was a sound that a body couldn’t have possibly made!

I started to regret thinking ‘I wasted my right arm with this joke’, But then I realized that my right arm didn’t hurt. Oi oi, did my pain receptors just die on me too?

“.....Fufu.”

Suddenly Sayumi-senpai started to laugh.

She was holding a pair of broken chopsticks in her hands.

“I-I’m so sorry... Coincidentally, I’ve accidentally broken my chopsticks.... Fufufu!”

“WHAT KIND OF COINCIDENCE IS THAT!”

Was that just the sound of chopsticks breaking?

She hasn't eaten anything that required chopsticks so far. To fetch something just to mess with me, Sayumi-senpai’s personality is too mean.

When I was glad that my right arm wasn’t damaged at all, Chifuyu started to walk towards me.

“What’s up? Chifuyu.”

“Chifuyu wants to draw too.”

“Eh? You want to draw Black Dragon on my arm?”

“Yup, I think it should be fun.”

It seems like conversation with Hatoko looks entertaining to her.

“Chifuyu. I’m thankful for your thoughts, but we aren’t playing around, okay?”

I said that with sudden serious tone. Others looked at me as if saying ‘What is this then...’, but I kept my serious expression.

“That’s okay. Chifuyu is good at drawing.”

“Really?”

“I’ve been referred to as ‘Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso of Heisei’ by the teacher at school.”

“How are you even able to say Picasso’s full name?! You can just say ‘Picasso of Heisei’!”

That’s the name which was so long that even Picasso himself couldn’t remember it all!

Chifuyu’s amazing! And so is her teacher!

“Ah, I’m wrong. It was ‘Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Chrispin Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso of Heisei’. I forgot Chrispin.” [\[5\]](#)

“You don’t have to correct fine details that no one will ever notice! That line just now is something the readers will definitely overlook if this was a novel or a manga!”

“Anyway Chifuyu will draw Black Dragon.”

She firmly clutched her tiny fist. It seemed she was full of motivation..

Chifuyu got a pen from me and without any hesitation started to draw the Black Dragon. I guess it was true that she could draw well.

“Black Dragon, it’s done.”

I turn my head toward my arm. There, an impressive-looking dragon was

drawn. I was really surprised at the quality of the drawing. Actually I give up, this child could easily become artist or manga artist in the future.

Except...

“This is Western Dragon!”

It’s more like winged dragon!

It was a fatty looking dragon with wings on its back.

This dragon was also charming, but if I had to get a tattoo of a dragon on my arm, then Eastern Dragon would be the best.

“Chifuyu... This is Black Dragon as well, but if possible, instead of ones like Dragonite, can you draw something like Dragonair or Dratini...”

“?”

“Was that too hard to understand... or maybe It’s the wrong generation... I wonder how can I get it across to her... Ah~ that’s it. Can you draw one like in the opening of [Nippon Mukashi Banashi]?”

“Yup.”

Chifuyu made a big nod and returned back to drawing.

“Nippon Mukashi Dragon. Done.”

“Oh~ this is, this is...”

“Faithful recreation.”

“Umm... It’s good that it’s faithful... but you even drew the kid riding the dragon...”

There was a kid with a pellet drum riding on that dragon. It was that child in red who was perhaps the history's youngest dragon rider.

This drawing had quite a bit of tension to it.

“Chifuyu, if possible...”

“I’m done.”

“Eh?”

“I’m done, Ando no fun.”

Chifuyu just spat those words out and took a distance from me. Such free spirit.

This feels like that situation, maybe this is how one feels like to be with a woman who uses you all she wants and throw you away when she’s done...

While contemplating in vanity, my eyes met with Sayumi-senpai’s.

“Sayumi-Senpai can you draw?”

“So-so. It's just a hobby .”

Humble like always. She’s was the x-men who says things like that but ends up giving us high level results, so those words of her shouldn’t be taken seriously.

“If that’s the case then I humbly request one Black Dragon here!”

“That frivolous tone is quite annoying. ... Well whatever.”

Sayumi-senpai skillfully ran the pen across my arm.

“Well it’s done. Fufu, it’s embarrassing to show my drawing to someone else.”

At first, I noticed its sharp eyes, it’s gaze that overwhelmed the opponent.

And neatly trimmed slick hair, white suit that covered it’s toned body...

“... Isn’t this [White Dragon] from that Yakuza anime?!”

“Ara my goodness. I don’t know what happened there, but instead of Black Dragon, I’ve drawn [White Dragon].”

“How the hell did you mistake them! You’ve clearly done it on purpose!”

Scaaary. On my arm there was now a drawing of Kurosu yakuza’s second in command, Shirakawa Tatsuya.

He was glaring at me...

But Sayumi-senpai’s drawing was so good!

“I’m so sorry Ando-kun. I’ve fixed it.”

“Ah thank you... but wait, this is now actor who plays the White Dragon in

movie! It's still scary as hell!"

What is up with her obsession with Yakuza.

I don't want an arm that I wouldn't even be able to look at.

"Sayumi-senpai... Let's stop with humans now. Normal cool looking dragon please."

"Charismatic dragon. Got it... Fufu."

Sayumi-senpai agreed with warmest smile, however, maybe because of that 'fufu' at the end, My feelings about this are all but good.

"All done. A cool Black Dragon."

Just as she said the dragon on my arm looks quite cool. My feelings began to run wild and my soul started going out of control. There was no man who could help but be excited after one look at this dragon.

That's because, that's because... This dragon was the...

<真紅眼の黒竜 [Red-Eyes Black Dragon]>

Red Eyes which is well cooler than Blue Eyes~!

The coolest point about Red-Eyes is that instead of [Red-Eyes <赤眼>], it uses [Crimson Eyes <真紅眼>]~!

Not only that it was also breaking hellfire!

"Woah... it's [Red-Eyes Black Dragon] which has less attack power compared to other Level 7 monsters, not only that, it hasn't got any additional attributes, so it became one hell of a bad idea to summon after Tribute Summon became a thing."

"That excessive commentary wasn't needed."

"It's [Red-Eyes Black Dragon] where in the anime this card was originally belonged to Dinosaur Ryuzaki and Jonouchi took it from him, but as the story progressed, it became something like his partner..."

“That commentary was also not need.”

Compared to me who’s deeply moved by the drawing, Sayumi-senpai was like the very cold itself. it seems like she was freaked out by the fact that I was enjoying her little prank quite a lot.

But I didn’t really care about that, my right arm had become super cool.

If you were to ask me, the Red-Eyes is Western dragon so it’s not the dragon I wanted, but this was still fine.

When I was bewitched by the drawing, Sayumi-senpai took few pieces of tissue out and silently approached me.

“‘Burst Stream of Destruction’!” [\[6\]](#)

Shouting that, she wiped the tissue on my arm.

“NOOOOOO! R-Red-Eyes have been destroyed!”

I’ve been defeated by the Blue-eyes!

The difference of 600 attack point was demonstrated clearly!

“Sayumi-senpai, what the hell was that!”

“I’m sorry. The scene of Ando-kun being happy was stringently disgusting.”

“So cruel! You can’t say everything that comes in your mind just because you’re saying it politely!”

“It really doesn't feel good when you are enjoying my prank.”

“So it was a prank.”

“Of course it is. But I was sorely mistaken. To draw Red-Eyes which contains things that chuunis would love like [Red Eyes], [Black] and [Dragons], I have finally seen the extent of your chuunibyou Ando-kun.”

Sayumi-senpai was strict on herself when It came to messing around with me.

When I was about to start redrawing the picture that was long gone, I realised that Tomoyo was looking toward me with sympathetic gaze.

“What, Tomoyo.”

“Just thinking how stupid you still are.”

“So you really want to draw the Black dragon on my arm? I really can’t help you.”

“Did you hear me?!”

“You were looking at me with sad gaze.”

“I didn’t! That’s not an excuse I really didn’t!”

“If you don’t practice religiously you won’t get any better.”

“There’s nothing that can come good even if you know how to draw dragon.”

“You can draw it on the greetings card for Year of the Dragon.”

“That’s only once every twelve years.”

“... There’s no other human to ask over here so please I’ll be in your care.”

“So weak! Why are you so obsessed!”

Well, how can I say. Since we got this far it’s all for naught, all the things we’ve done until now, what were they for.

Tomoyo deeply sighed and picked up the pen.

“Ah fine. Give me your arm.”

“Tomoyo... I’m sorry, I’m indebted. I will not forget this even after multiple reincarnations. I will work to repay even in my afterlife.”

“Repay within this life. Damn it, why am I doing this...”

Tomoyo grumbled and started to draw the dragon on my arm.

“Hey, one like Hiei from YuuHaku is fine right.”

When she looked up from my arm and asked so, I just replied with ‘yes’.

My sublime thoughts have been perfectly transferred to the former chuunibyou Tomoyo. from such perfect communication my feelings were moved slightly.

“It’s done. Don’t complain about it.”

“Wooooo.....”

The dragon that Tomoyo had drawn, hadn’t got a flair like others, but

compared to them, it was the closest to the image I that had in mind.

In other words, it was the most Hiei-like.

“.....Kuku.”

On my cursed right arm, one dragon had been born.

Its body was wrapped around my arm that was dyed in black, like it was condemning me.

... Me with the Black Dragon on my right arm, so cool.

“Oh my [Dark and Dark], you have finally shown yourself. The wildness of your nature which would even burn my own body if I let my guard down, has fried my hand countless times until now. fried, with double meaning.....Fufu.”

“Can you not laugh at yourself at your own word play? It’s disgusting.”

“Ku, Aaaaarg! Calm down, [Dark and Dark]! This is not time for expiation yet!”

“Oi, if you’re gonna play with that right arm being in pain go to the corner and do it, you’re bothering me.”

“Now that the Black Dragon is done, next is bandage! Wrap it up, seal it.”

From my bag, I took out a bandage which I brought from home just in case.

“Tomoyo. Wrap up my arm for me. I don’t think I can do a decent job if I do it myself.”

“So why should I....”

“Kuuuu! H-Hurry! I-If you don’t....”

“Why don’t you just be consumed by your own power.”

Although she shouted insults at me, Tomoyo eventually wrapped the bandage on my arm.

She plays along really well.

“So, Hiei’s Iju Taihou like that?” [\[Z\]](#)

“... Yeah.”

It was great that she could catch on fast. I might fall for her.

Squatting beside me, Tomoyo was wrapping some bandages on my arm. If this was a scene from Supernatural fight scene it would be heartwarming scene where Heroine is applying first aid onto hurt main character, but this right now was just a low quality joke.

Hmm, even I started to get critical on myself.

What the hell am I doing right now...

But what of it. We can't back off now that we've come this far.

"Anyway Tomoyo, you seem quite used to this."

There won't be many occasions when normal people would use bandages.

"I've been doing this to Hajime-nii-chan back in the day."

"Ahh. Now that i think about it, I remember you saying that Kiryuu-san used to be in Field and Track club. Or maybe, although he acts like that, he's got short temper?"

"No.. T-That's..."

Tomoyo seemed to be struggling to say something.

"... He used to say something similar quite a bit."

"....."

Oh my kindred spirit.

Well bandages are cool, it's good for covering your arm, or you could act cool by covering part of your face and eye like Takasugi from Gintama.

"It's done."

"Thanks. Now... I can fight once more!"

"... Just do a suicide attack.."

The bandages wrapped around my arms were not aligned. Of course it was not because Tomoyo was hurrying and didn't do a good job, but rather, it was because she didn't put much pressure, so it didn't feel bad.

So cool, part of the bandages being snug fit looked so awesome.

Now that Seal had been finished, what's next is to use it.

“Chifuyu~ Make ‘Field’ for me, a ‘Field’!”

Suppressing my impatient heart, I asked Chifuyu.

“What kind?”

“Right... one of those wasted field that were background of near end of DragonBall just because they were too lazy to draw a city.”

“I don’t know.”

“Just normal wasteland then.”

“Okay.”

“Was that really necessary?” And Tomoyo’s criticism .

Chifuyu raised her hand towards the outside window.

Space in front of us began to warp inwards. The wall had disappeared and the scenery was changed. Instead of the normal scene of the school yard, a total waste land had appeared before us.

Her power [World Create] even has an ability like this. She first created a wasteland, then using her powers she turned the wall into the entrance to this world.

It’s an enormous power that could create literally anything and everything, but for us, we just use it to play around by creating ice skating rink or baseball arena.

“Nice. Hatoko, come here for a sec. let’s have a sham battle.”

“Right~.”

With Hatoko, we changed to outdoor shoes (there are spares in the club room) and step into the waste land.

Endless wasteland, with no human in sight. The bright sun in the sky above had brought down the scorching heat and dry wind was blowing on the ground.. In the rough wind of the wasteland my bandages fluttered.

Fluttering bandages, so cool.

“Kuku.”

Stopping like a villain, I turned around to face Hatoko.

Creating sorrowful, almost grief atmosphere, I opened my mouth.

“How long has it been since we faced each other... You...”

“Go Laser Beammmmmmmmm!”

In middle of my line laser flew toward me.

One of her [Over Element]’s power, the power of light. The attack of heavily condensed photons!

“AAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGGGG!”

Dodging the attack with desperate sideways dive, the laser that passed me only by 5cm went further ahead and destroyed a huge rock mountain.

If I must add a sound effect it’s [BOOOOOOOM-----!] literally.

S-Scary.....

“Hatoko! You trying to kill me?!”

“Eeh, But Juu-kun said to have a sham battle.”

“Sham battle! Sham! We don’t fight for real, this is just a play!”

“Play?”

“Ah, no. it’s not really playing. It’s like simulation, yeah a simulation. A grand simulation. To say like in SAO it’s ‘This is a game, but it’s not just something you play.’. We can’t be lazy with training just in case of emergency.”

“Uuuu~ Too difficult~”

“But most importantly. What’s up with attacking me in the middle of my line.”

That’s what I’m most angry about. I’m angrier about that than nearly being destroyed by that laser.

Read the atmosphere will you, the atmosphere.

“Did you understand Hatoko. We learned that we must pay attention when someone else is speaking right?”

“Yeah I did... But, isn’t it bad to listen to the enemy while fighting?”

Couldn't say anything back at that.

Damn it. This Hatoko is quite prudent.

"You idiot! The war never ceases in this world because there are lots of people who say same things as you do!"

"Really?!"

"That's right. Even in the middle of the battlefield, if you've got a heart big enough to listen to your enemy, how should I put this, this world would be a more peaceful place."

"I-Is that so~...."

Just say whatever sounds grand and let the story progress .

it was a Hatoko Kushikawa counter measure.

"Listen well Hatoko. I will explain in a way that you can understand."

"Okay."

"For example, in old animation [Sore Ike! Anpanman] at the end when Anpanman changes to new face, if Baikinman ruins his face again... that won't do right?"

"Nope!"

"it'll be like "Wh-, you, read the atmosphere for real." right?"

"Yup!"

"Also in [Mito Koumon] when Kaku-san bring's out the Seal case, if the villains say I know no such thing!' then... It feels wrong somehow, doesn't it.."

"It's wrong! Koumon-sama would be like "E-Ehh.....?"!"

"This is what they call 'Promise'."

"Promise!"

Her eyes were shining with life. Her comedy lover blood must be resonating.

"So you understand right? Just like they've got a promise in your favourite comedy, in this battle based on Anpanman we've also got a promise."

“Anpanman. Was that supernatural battle too?!”

“Of course. What else could it be? Anpanman is Homunculus created by Uncle Jam’s Stand ability didn’t you know?”

“Really?!”

“That uncle, whenever he makes a bread dough he keep repeating ‘Gold Experience! Be Born, new life!’.”

“I don’t like that Uncle Jam~!”

“Anyway just keep the promise now.”

“Yup I understand. I won’t attack in the middle of a sentence.”

“... And also please don’t attack so seriously.”

I didn’t forget to add a disclaimer at the end in small voice.

Everyone here except me had God-like abilities. This is something I don’t want to say but even 1/10th, no even 1/100th of their power would be enough to overwhelm me.

Among all of them, Hatoko’s [Over Element] had highest attack ability. If we judge in terms of sheer destructive power, it was the greatest of us all.

For Hatoko, the most gentle and pacifistic person, to be able to gain the most destructive power here. What an irony.

We’ve been trying to figure out the relationship between our awakened powers and person’s personality but we haven’t made any progress yet.

But this isn’t time for difficult words, it’s time for the simulation.

“Kuku, how long has it been since we fought...”

“Been a day~”

“I have been waiting for this moment, ever since i’ve laid my eyes on you...”

“Since kindergarten?”

“It's time to settle this once and for all.”

“That’s because I’m a girl and Ju-kun’s a guy.” [\[8\]](#)

..... Can't she just be quiet.

Whatever. Unsealing the power of my right arm takes priority.

I reached for the bandage on my right arm. In order to experience the coolness of the bandages to my hearts content, this time I told bye bye to the release chant. In that area, my ability had great adaptability.

"There's no going back anymore, it's been so long that I forgot how to seal it back."

I started to remove the bandages as an evil grin floated on my face.

And what came out was the shape of a sinister Black Dragon that acted as a proof of my power [Dark and Dark], carved on my hand—

""

Black Dragon had been smudged all over the place.

it was awfully messed up.

Right... Now that I think about it, we've been using water-based marker all the time, so wrapping some bandages on top would smudge it.

"Eh? Ju-kun, why are you wrapping it again? Didn't you say you forgot the way to seal it?"

"I-I remembered!"

"Is that so, that's good~"

"Yes, really! Seriously my memory is so good it can be so awkward!"

I tried to hide it from Hatoko but it's so hard to do things with left hand. The more I struggle, more bandages get loosened and my Black Dragon slowly fades away.

""

Ahh~

Whatever.

It's all done for.

This killed the mood.

Trudgingly walking back to the classroom I slumped down and faced the sky.

“... I wonder if I’ll hit a jackpot from lottery I didn’t even buy.”

“So what did you want out of this in the end?!”

Tomoyo slammed me with criticism at full force. Looks like she had been building up stress by listening to mine and Hatoko's lenient talk.

Actually, it might have been building up ever since she heard me say ‘I’m drawing a Black Dragon’.

“Fu. I wonder what was it that I wanted to do... Perhaps I wanted to be stopped by you guys afterall.”

“Stop saying things like final boss turning into a good guy at the very end!”

“Anyway I’m really sorry... That Black Dragon you drew for me... It’s gone now...”

“Really stop with that apologising! I don’t really care about that!”

“Really?! Then will you draw it for me once again?!”

“Hell no!”

“... Cheapskate. Ah~ at least all weren’t for naught.”

I muttered while looking down on my right arm. I was able to feel the cool sensation of bandages once more.. Maybe next time, I’ll seal my [Dark and Dark] with ‘curse suppressing bandage’ instead of ‘Sealing Bracelet’.

“Yo Tomoyo. Which is better, the curse suppressing bandage or the Sealing Bracelet?”

“I don’t really care.”

“Yes every one. ‘I don’t really care’ have been said now~ how will you feel when you go shopping with your boyfriend and he says that? You won’t like it right? So don’t say that will ya.”

“Shut up you damn chunni. Anyway, With that all ink seeping in, are you really going to be fine with that bandage being dirty?”

“What? Ahh!”

Damn it. I didn't get permission from home to take this!

"This is bad! My mum's gonna kill me for this!"

I hurriedly ran towards the wasteland.

"Hatoko! quickly Create some water"

"Sure~"

Using [Over Element] to create water, I hurriedly washed the bandages. Water coming out of Hatoko's hand are being absorbed by the desert floor.

Thanks to this wasteland I didn't have to go all the way to the faucet. After thoroughly washing it, I brought a chair from the club room and set it there for it to dry. Hopefully the weather over there would help it dry quickly .

"this is the combined effect of [Over Element] and [World Create], the [Union Skill] ... [Launderette Weather (Rising Sun)]!"

... Even though it was me, but that's a shitty name.

It sounds like I've wasted the God-like ability on this.

"Hey Ando."

When I returned after washing the bandages, Tomoyo said to me.

" If you were to keep the Black Dragon and such, can you change your [Dark and Dark]'s shape?"

"Eh? What do you mean?"

"I'm talking about shapeshifting. Changing your flame's shape. Can you do it?"

To change the shape of the flame eh.

Normally when I activate [Dark and Dark] I just let it out as normal flame on my hand, since that's the natural shape the flame should have. It just has that shape without any type of manipulation .

"I've never tried."

"Really? I thought since you were drawing Black Dragon I thought surely you will create [Dark and Dark] in a shape of a Black Dragon."

"No, I really didn't think that far ahead... I just thought that it would be pretty

cool to have a Black Dragon tattoo or something. I just thought it'll be cool to have something like that."

"... You really can't think of anything but setting that's in front of you."

"W-What? S-Setting? I don't know what you're talking about..."

Thanks to that heart-piercing criticism I couldn't say anything.

But shapeshifting. I might just try that.

In reality my [Dark and Dark] was useless but, it's true ability might be in shape shifting.

"Okay, let's try it then."

Raising my right arm, I activated my [Dark and Dark] normally. The Dark flames danced around my right arm.

"Where is your release chant?"

"... Ah. T-That's... today's day when my power increases to it's fullest potential that comes once a year so it's fine."

"Yet another forced scenario... Anyway just don't shove that [Dark and Dark] near me. how can I say it, your flame is too warm, or lukewarm. It gets too warm and uncomfortable."

"What? Don't underestimate the power of my [Dark and Dark]! This guy had the power to give me a low temperature burn when I touched it for a long time thinking 'Ah, this guy's pretty warm'!"

"Hot water bottle level?!"

Focusing all my mind, I manipulated my hot water bottle... no my [Dark and Dark].

Drawing destructive and chaotic Black Dragon in my mind.

Fantasise, Dream, imagine, create and materialise!

"Ooooooooooooooooooooooh!"

Focusing on my right arm only, I manipulated the flames on it. But it doesn't work out the way I want . Even if I concentrate all my strength, I am only able to

move the tip of the flame. Even then if I relax a bit it goes back to the way it was

.

“Hmmmmmmmmmp!”

But I won’t give up.

While raising a war cry, I repeated the adjustment of both delicacy and boldness over and over.

Like that, the black flame slowly changed its appearance.

“H-Hey Ando. I think you should stop...”

“K-Kuuu. D-Don’t stop me Tomoyo. I understand you’re looking out for my body, but I can’t just stand back now!”

“No.... You’re too loud so I would like you to stop actually.”

“Kuuuu Aaaaaaaaarg!”

“Chifuyu-this idiot’s being too noisy so please insulate him. Soundproof, yeah thanks.”

“Rin, Pyo, To, Sha, Kai, Jin, Retsu, Zai, Zen! Rin, Pyo, To, Sha, Kai, Jin, Retsu, Zai, Zen!” [\[9\]](#)

“What’s up with sudden Kuji”

“[Spiral Staircase]![Rhinoceros Beetle]![Ruins Street]![Fig Tart]![Rhinoceros Beetle]![Via Dolorosa]![Singularity Point]![Giotto]![Angel]![Hydrangea]![Rhinoceros Beetle]![Singularity Point]![Secret Emperor]!”

“Why are you chanting 14 words needed to reach heaven?!” [\[10\]](#)

Flame that’s dancing on my right hand was slowly changing into a shape that I imagined it to be.

Flame... is born as a free spirit.

It does not like to be confined to specific shape thus it changes its shape constantly. To restrict that ‘freedom’ might be harder than I had thought.

But something that resembled a dragon had started to appear.

“Little bit more.... If I just change a it little bit more...”

Thin dragon shape was waving on my hands.

Only one more step to go, but I began to struggle.

“Damn it... only it’s thin whiskers is left... it’s too difficult because it’s too thin to make...”

“Can’t you just let that part go?!”

“No way.. Dragon isn’t a dragon until it has a whisker... without them it just look like a snake... Hiei’s Black Dragon Wave also has whiskers ...”

Although I said that, it was too much for my current level so I compromised. Even without its whiskers if it’s got a horn then you would be able to distinguish it from a snake.

“... Alright. It’s done!”

A Black Dragon had manifested on my arm. Its appearance was so fiendish and sinister that it would send shivers to anyone who saw it ... S-So cool, Black Dragon’s so cool.

Only.....

“... it’s small.”

Tomoyo, who was observing my hand, gave a complicated expression.

Black Dragon was small. Small enough to fit in one hand. Small enough that if we tried, it could go inside a capsule. Its figure was really chaotic without a doubt, but due to its size, it became too cute.

Might as well call it Palmtop Dragon. [\[11\]](#)

“Hey Ando, can’t you make it bigger?”

“D-Difficult... This is the limit... no, I am already at my limit just maintaining this...”

The moment I gave in, the little dragon was released and it reverted back to normal flame.

“Haaa~ I’m tired. I feel like 5 years have been shaved from my life.”

“Shapeshifting. It looks like it’s possible... no, I don’t know if we can call this

shape shifting right?”

Looking at me who's exhausted, Tomoyo put her hand on her chin and analysed what just happened.

“Even if you make it into a shape of a dragon or a Phoenix. if you want to shoot a fireball I think you need to put in more effort.”

“... Effort huh, it sounds troublesome.”

Shapeshifting even that much is too tiring. If I want it to be of a bigger size(bigger than normal human body) then I think I would need to train a lot more.

In reality I can't be bothered with that .

Maybe that laziness looked offensive, Tomoyo shot me a condemning gaze.

“Oi you lazy bastard. It's fine if you want to give up on making a Black Dragon, but at least show some motivation.”

“You say that, but putting effort into things isn't in fashion lately is it?”

“Hey you....”

“No I understand, the importance of putting effort into things. But it really isn't popular right now. You really can't find main characters in either manga or anime that actually puts in any effort, can you?”

“Uuu...”

Maybe something came into her mind, Tomoyo didn't talk back and closed her mouth. Right then, Sayumi-senpai said ‘There's some reasoning in Ando-kun's words’ and joined the conversation.

“it is true that in 2D works such as Manga, Anime and Light Novel, thing such as ‘effort’ has been put out of fashion.”

“That's right. Main characters these days are like ‘Your typical High School student’ but that person has gained some kind of ridiculous power since he/she was born, or suddenly have gain this ridiculous power one day and so they never put in any effort.”

In supernatural battles, we can see a lot of scenarios where our brand new

main hero who just started to fight will beat his enemy character who's been training rigorously ever since he was born.

Tremendous effort that the enemy character had put in through blood, sweat and tears, gets blasted away by the main character's talent and improvisation.

This is the contradiction of supernatural battles, but it's a charm at the same time.

"It's not that there aren't any works where main characters don't work for their abilities but... they normally just cut off the training arc. Or become digested." Said Tomoyo.

"Unless they create some fun way of training, it gets too boring for the readers. After using their brand new final move, they say things like 'I've been practicing this back then' like they do in [Men's Private School] and [Prince of tennis]." Said Sayumi-senpai.

"There are works where training get cut short too right? Suddenly the enemies charge in so things get cut short." I said. .

I guess they aren't objecting my opinion that 'effort' is out of fashion these days.

"Must be that the things readers want has changed."

Sayumi-senpai gave her hypothesis.

"[Want a girl to like me], [Want to save the world], [Want to be recognised by everyone], [But I don't want to put in much effort]. these are the things that readers want... I think current negative climate towards 'effort' came in due to responding to their 'I want a result without putting too much effort in' attitude."

"As someone who has mainly read shounen manga and light novels I really want to rebut that claim but, I really can't."

It feels like I'm being called a lazy ass but her reasoning was so accurate that I can't even say anything back.

I got little bit gloomy, but seeing that Sayumi-senpai tried to cheer me up saying 'I'm not saying that's bad or anything to wish.'

“Humankind always has a desire to ‘achieve without effort’, so it’s not something to be embarrassed about. It’s just that to achieve their end goals without putting any effort is next to impossible so that’s why humans work.”

Even if it’s an effort that you don’t even want to waste.

Sayumi-senpai then continued her talk.

“That’s why it’s not enjoyable if even manga or light novels make you read about ‘effort that you don’t want to put in’. You don’t need to read a lecture about effort to know the importance of them.”

“That’s true...”

Everyone should know that there aren’t any result without effort.

Even if you aren’t being told every second, we already know.

But it’s not like we can just put in effort all the time. We don’t like painful experiences, and if there’s something I don’t want to do, then I can’t force myself.

There are times when you want to take it easy, and be lazy.

“Well, then there’s the charm of words like ‘Natural Talent’ and ‘Awakening’ that is part of the problem. Ando-kun can’t resist them right?”

“It’s irresistible!”

“... your devotion to these things is so unsightly. please get out of my sight.”

Sayumi-senpai defiantly showed her dissatisfaction, but I didn’t care.

“Main characters are normally all geniuses. Even when they are training, they are like ‘Oh for normal people this will take normally a year, but this guy will take a month...’ and show how much of a genius they are.”

“‘Geniuses’ are always subjects of everyone’s admiration, not to mention anything about ‘Awakening’. Compared to characters who gain their power through endless amount of training, it’s self-evident that there’s more charm to characters who suddenly gain ridiculous amount of power in crisis. Even for the authors it is easier to have their characters awaken their powers and cast aside the backstory they had until then.

I really didn't think her realistic hypothesis was necessary, she's someone who would say things that destroys one's dream.

But it's amazing, this 'Awakening'.

Not only the authors can deal with scenarios without much hassle, but the ones who are receiving them are made happy.

This isn't just a mere dream-maker.

No wonder this kind of thing is popular.

"Men find it more charming to achieve something without effort when they are young. It's hard to grasp the charm of 'effort' unless you grow a bit."

Ending her lecture, using elegant movement Sayumi-senpai picked up her cup and quietly sipped on her tea.

"..... How old are you again senpai?"

When I thoughtlessly asked.

"I'm nearly 18 now."

She replied with a bright smile.

"So we can conclude that ."

Tomoyo said with a composed expression.

"When you're young, you think you're a genius, so you'll be more attracted to 'I'M SO STRONGG!' type of development of a genius character. But after getting older, maybe due to your own limitation, you realise that you're just a normal person so you get out of that kind of phase..."

That hit home a little.

When something like this is coming from Tomoyo, who has already graduated chuunibyou, I can't help but feel some mysterious sadness.

I... I think to myself that I might be special, someone amazing.

I want to think that, and I want to believe that.

But in a small corner of my mind, I'm always afraid.

Afraid that one day, I will learn that I can only be myself, and nothing else.

Looking at Tomoyo's darkened expression, Sayumi-senpai added.

"No, in the end, I think it comes down to personal preference."

Such blunt words without any sugar coating .

...Not that I can argue or anything!

I took a deep sigh and vacantly gazed at my right arm.

"Maybe I should practice a bit, that shapeshifting."

As I said that, Tomoyo looked over at me with teasing expression.

"What, didn't you say putting effort isn't in fashion?"

"It's not in fashion, and since I'm a type where I gain more power through real-action and my true powers awaken when I'm in a pinch so I really don't need to practice. But... there's no harm in practicing."

I rebutted.

"One day, I will create a Black Dragon that is transcending coolness. One that can easily become engraved onto my right arm."

"... Although I can't help but think that your effort is pointed towards the wrong direction."

"I think it's good."

Tomoyo said while making absurd expression towards me, but Sayumi-senpai reasoned with her like a tone of enlightenment.

"There is no such thing as a wasted effort. No, if we stretch the interpretation then everything becomes a wasted effort. For example, you could say that those baseball club members who enthusiastically engross themselves in baseball are wasting their effort. But if you just dismiss them saying there's no use of them trying, it is something to be frowned upon."

"But... This guy's effort feels quite different to those..."

Oh ho, Sayumi-senpai taking my side was quite rare . I'm actually quite happy.

"Tomoyo-chan. To give an easier example. If a child wants to become 'Ultraman' or 'Kamen Rider' it's adult's duty to just keep quiet and watch on."

“Ah, true.”

... I’m totally being treated like a child.

Hmpt, whatever. Effort won’t betray me.

In any case, today is the first step towards the everlasting journey.

I can’t even imagine how much of my life will pass before I can create the perfect Black Dragon in my mind, but if I strive towards it endlessly then I’m sure I would someday reach it.

“Hey Ju-kun.”

When I was carving my burning resolution into my heart, I heard Hatoko’s voice from a distance. It seemed that she’s still in the wasteland.

That girl, what is she doing not coming back to the club room. When I turned around thinking that, I lost my voice.

“That dragon Ju-kun said you wanted to make. Is this it~?”

A blazing flame dragon is lurking around Hatoko with her body as its centre. Looking chaotic, but somehow holy. It was stupidly cool-looking dragon. She didn’t forget to add a moustache and horn too.

It’s body was easily over 100m long.

This scene of a giant crimson dragon shaking and wriggling its body, was like the very purgatory itself.

In the centre of that purgatory... there was a face smiling innocently.

“Actually I wanted to make it similar to Ju-kun’s black flame~”

Hatoko’s [Over Element] cannot create dark flame since [Over Element] was power to take control of one’s core property, and dark flame doesn’t exist in real world. [\[12\]](#)

So in the end my [Dark and Dark] had allure to it, but apart from that.

“... Hatoko. You. That. How....”

“I just did it~ it just worked when I tried it~”

“.....”

Just worked.

I tried my damn hardest and only created a palmtop dragon, but Hatoko has managed to create a dragon of my ideals in this short period of time.

“Go~ Destroy with dragon~”

The moment Hatoko gave order, the crimson dragon flew up with a terrific speed, and crashed into the rocky mountain far across the distance.

no.

3attle



ボイス 淑女の ですよ の嗜み は

高梨彩弓

せんこう

泉光高校三年二組。

血液型A型。

《始原》

(ルートオブオリジン)

存在回帰の異能。

触れた物があるべき姿に還す。あるべき姿は、彩弓さんの主観に依る。

直接的な攻撃力は皆無と言っていいだろう。ただの回復能力だったら、相手を過剰回復させるマホイミ的な技ができそうだが、彩弓さんの力は存在回帰であるため、そういうことは不可能。

というか、彩弓さんは能力使わなくてもアホみたいに強い。灯代の十倍速度ぐらいなら普通に目で追ってたし。人間じゃねーよ。

※Bloody Vivreより一部抜粋

CHARACTER 04

I don't know how high the temperature was, but the dragon swallowed the entire rock mountain and burned it down.

Intensity , output, destructive power, speed, or the beauty of it's shaping. Whatever you picked, it was my total defeat.

“.....”

Whatever motivation that I had in me, was totally and utterly destroyed.

It has shown me the difference between absolute talent and effort, which cannot be overcome.

Maybe this is how Yamcha and Krillin felt like when they gave up chasing behind Goku....

I slumped down on my chair and quietly started muttering to myself..

“..... I really can't be bothered with effort thing anymore.”

Without any words, Tomoyo and Sayumi-senpai just gave me a gaze full of pity.

Translation Notes and References

1. ⤴ TN Also read as Second Hand Bookstore, but ando is mixing up japanese and english words apparently
2. ⤴ TN This is not racial joke, rather the fact that chuunibyou likes to represent themselves as part-devil or part-angel, *etc.*
3. ⤴ TN For more information go here and see 'quotes'
https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/George_Mallory
4. ⤴ TN In Japanese Kuroko and Mole has same writing.
5. ⤴ TN actually. The first one was right.
6. ⤴ TN Attack from Blue-eyes White Dragon
7. ⤴ TN Taboo Curse Bind Method
8. ⤴ TN The way Ando said the previous comment can be mistaken for 'to determine male and female' hence Hatoko's confusion
9. ⤴ TN Kuji-kiri (Nine symbolic cuts) meaning Power, Energy, Harmony, Healing, Intuition, Awareness, Dimension, Creation, Absolute
10. ⤴ TN Jojo reference. Don't ask

11. [↑](#) ED note:a reference to toradora
12. [↑](#) TN Actually it does...

Chapter 5: Crane Game, A Universal Theory

Part 1

Lunchtime of a certain day.

After buying a can of Black Coffee from the vending machine in front of the cafeteria, I began walking around while showing off as ‘someone who only drinks their coffee black’ towards the passer-by.

While aimlessly wandering around holding onto the can instead of putting it away in my pocket, I found Sayumi-san near a staircase.

She’s talking to an unfamiliar girl. I first assumed that she was her friend, but hostility between them said otherwise. I could feel the tension between them even from a distance.

After waiting for a moment the unfamiliar girl left and Sayumi-san heaved a tired sigh. I went over to her and inquired.

“Sayumi-san.”

“Ara, Ando-kun.”

“Was that your friend just now?”

“Rather than a friend. That person just now was Student Council president Mirei Kudo-san.”

“Heeeh.”

Is that so. That was the first time I saw her. I didn’t really care so I didn’t know that our Student Council president was such a beauty.

“If that person was the Student Council president then the reason why the conversation just now looked bad was because of...”

“As you have guessed it, it’s about the Literature Club.”

I did hear that the Literature Club was being marked by the Student Council. As the club president, it could be that Sayumi-san was being troubled without

us knowing.

“For agents of ‘those guys’ to use such underhanded methods instead of fighting us head on. What a cautious and troublesome opponents they are.

“It seems so.”

“But whatever power the enemies have got, in front of my <Dark and Dark> all will turn to being ash regardless.”

“Right, like protein.”

Sayumi-san’s reply was incredibly negligent. Her eyes were telling me that she was ‘Pissed off’ so I switched back to my normal mode.

“They won’t shut down the club right?”

“That won’t be a problem. But maybe it would be a good idea if we end the club activities earlier.”

“Ah, we do stay here until it’s late quite often.”

It’s just that we spend a lot of time in there without any of us realising it.

It’s just that the clubroom is so comfortable.

“Besides that, we also have to think of activities apart from the literature magazine we publish once a year.”

“New activity...”

Part 2

For that reason the club activity after school was.

“So who’s got an idea for a new activity? !”

For some reason I get to be the host in this kind of situations so I asked everyone this question. But no one raised their hand.

“Even if you say activities, I’m not really up for it.”

Leaning back on her chair, Tomoyo spoke. Hatoko was resting her chin on the table and said ‘Yeah~’ and agreed with her.

“I don’t particularly want to do any activities~ I just wanna laze around like always~”

“Hey you lazy pigs!... is what I want to say but I’m with you guys.”

To tell you the truth, I really didn’t want to do anything. I joined this club because I didn’t want to do anything. So now that they are telling us to do something, there’s no motivation at all.

When I was looking around with a glassy stare, my eyes met with Chifuyu, holding onto her Lissun.

“Today’s conversation has got nothing to do with you right, Chifuyu-chan.”

It might be easy to forget this but, Chifuyu isn’t a member of this club. Obviously, she did not participate in the last year’s Literature Magazine either.

But Chifuyu then pouted looking like she was dissatisfied.

“Uuu-That’s not true.”

“But...”

“I don’t like that Chifuyu is left out.”

She pouted like she was a little angry.

C-Cute... Woah, what is this cute creature....

I just wanna take her home with me and cuddle her everyday before going to

bed!

“I’m so sorry Chifuyu. That’s right, our Chifuyu is also part of the Literature club.”

“Yup!”

“However-- Chifuyu Himeki. Have you made your resolve? Once you become our comrade, you won't be able to return to your world where the sun shines. So are you willing to fall with us?”

“Then I’ll pass.”

Quickly refused. It looks like Chifuyu is a Japanese who can say ‘NO’. At this rate she won’t have any problems dealing with one of those weird door-to-door salesman.

“Then shall we think of something that Chifuyu-chan can participate in.”

Sayumi-san said to conclude the conversation.

When I thought for a moment, I came across an idea.

“How about we do a relay novel this time too? We had a lot of fun last time we did it”

It’s a good idea if I say so myself. In the past it used to be just the four of us in the club, but I think it shouldn't be a problem if we add Chifuyu to make it five of us this time.

“If we set a theme and after doing some editing, publish it as a Literature Magazine, than I think it’ll be an activity that’s quite like literature club's... eh?”

When I came to my senses, i saw that other three high schoolers were making uncomfortable faces.

“W-What’s wrong guys?.”

“We just remembered the Relay novel we did last time”

“Tomoyo... Wh? It was fun right?”

“Really you...”

What is this about. I hurriedly looked at other’s reactions. Both Sayumi-san

and Hatoko were nodding their heads in agreement with Tomoyo.

“For example, Do you remember the round where you were the last person.”

Hmm, let's see. If I remember correctly...

First Sayumi-san wrote about a meeting between Satomi, a girl who had an incurable illness and Yuuki, a boy with a broken dream. The setting had a cliché feeling, but the fated meeting between these two had paved a potential for a sad story.

Next Hatoko wrote about their comical everyday lives. There wasn't much progress, but it feels like Yuuki being slowly attracted to Satomi is well displayed.

Then Tomoyo wrote about Satomi's condition getting worse. By portraying Yuuki's failed past without any fault, she had managed to write out 'Yuuki's Past' that Sayumi-san had foreshadowed beautifully. After overcoming his past, Yuuki sneaks into Satomi's hospital room.

“... Then it was your turn to write .”

“That's right.”

“The possible settings from then were... for a miracle to happen and the girl survives, or the girl dies as expected, it's between these two right?”

“Well, generally stories out there in the public having a setting about incurable diseases have similar endings.”

“And what did you do?”

“It turns out that Satomi is heiress of a dark household who have inherited a power of gods <Neo Ragnarok> from the ancient times, and that her incurable disease was just a symptom of that power awakening. And Yuuki, who had been incarnating for countless generations, but had lost his memories, finally managed to recollect his past. To save his lover from his previous lives he fights with his life on the line. The story becomes something supernatural.”

“Why did you drag a story that had 'It's a great story~' feel to a Chuuni battle!? ”

“I just thought that such a common story was boring.”

“Just because it’s original, doesn't mean it’s good!”

“What~? I thought it was great.”

Satomi [Please...Kill me while I can still get a hold of myself. If you don’t, my <Neo Ragnarok> will destroy the world. Hurry!]

Yuuki [It cannot end like this. I’ve finally found you after all...]

Satomi [Please kill me, and become a hero that saved the world...]

Yuuki [You or the world, so I can’t save both, but only one...]

“[Collapsing world! Fast approaching final battle! Flowing tears! Boiling emotions! What will the boy pick, the world or the girl, or... To be continued.]”

“Stop it! Don’t use [Our fight has only just begun, The End] scenario when you’re the last person!”

“Well I can’t help it right? Satomi’s <Neo Ragnarok> is so powerful that nothing can be done. It’s inflation you know, inflation.” <TN all of our TL have given up on this section. Fuck you Ando> “It’s nothing but you yourself in the middle of an absurd scenario.”

“Maybe this is what they call ‘Characters move on their own’.”

“Are you sure you didn’t meant ‘Did not go according to foreshadowing’?”

“Always with the criticism... It’s fine, Foreshadowing comes alive when you don't follow through and throw it out of the window. How many works do you think that actually go through with what were foreshadowed?”

“A-After saying things too awkward to argue...”

Maybe she’s got something in her mind, Tomoyo didn’t argue about my point. But she then changed the topic and hurled a complaint towards me.

“After the result of that absurd relay novel, we decided that Ando shouldn’t be left for the ending, so we decided to make Ando go first.”

“Ah yeah true.”

Surely...

AD 30XX.

Humanity, after being defeated and chased out from the surface of the Earth by newly evolved lifeform <Arsgear>, they now live underneath the surface in a place called <Paradise>. There, the society is dictated by a government by the name of [Central Committee].

To reclaim the surface from <Arsgear>, the Central Committee has combined magic and mechanical engineering and created new combat style called Armoured Magecraft.

The ones who pilot these are called Armoured Mages.

Our main character is Signa L, attending the school to raise such pilots. Signa has been labeled as a failure around the school, but his combat ability is well beyond the level of any students. In the past, Signa was subjected to a secret experiment ran by the Central Committee, thus in his body lies the gene of <Arsgear>. Due to his dark past, if his emotions get the good of him he won't be able to suppress the power himself. That's why in normal life he acts as a failure and avoids conflict.

But the ones who took interest in him were a group of rebels who have opposed the rule of [Central Committee] known as [ZEED] and a religious group who believe that <Arsgear> is the ruler of this world [Azure Flame Alliance]. <red> TN 蒼炎會 in kanji/chinese> </ref> [ZEED] who are trying to recruit main character as one of their force, who are trying to use the main character as a bridge between the humankind and <Arsgear> and finally [Central Committee] who have started to make their own move.

Signa's tainted fate begins with a fatefull encounter with a nameless girl.

[You are a man! Then go and save like a world or something!]

A boy who's been avoiding conflict until now, he heads toward a battlefield just for this girl who had saved him---

"What do you want us to do with this complicated back story.?!"

"Just do something with it, that's the real fun of Relay Novel."

"Impossible! Isn't this that kind of setting where if this was a Light Novel it'll easily take 20 volumes isn't it?! For sure first volume will be dedicated just on the character introduction right?!" Actually for the beginning of Relay Novel it

might have been too much. It'll be asking too much of me if someone told me to write the next part.

"... Whatever that sounds fun always give us a headache..."

"Oh really? You think it'll be fun?"

"D-Definitely not! S-Seriously not at all!"

"... Kuku"

It's true that Tomoyo is an excellent comrade that can understand me. But not wanting to accept this, Tomoyo kept raising her voice.

"If we start the Relay Novel with such a chuuni setting then the ending will be such a horrific scene!"

"... Well, the probability of the setting getting out of control, I can't say it'll be low."

"It's positive, probability is 100%"

"I'll just say that probability is comparable to the probability that when a main character and a heroine from Light Novel go out just with two of them, the destination will be the Crane Game at the arcade."

"So what's the probability then?!"

"Nearly 100%"

"Oh really?!"

That's right. Why is it that in a Light Novel, they always go to an arcade just to play that Crane Game? That's definitely a wrong date plan.

The probability of the girl being sick of the date after you invest huge amount of money in fit of anger because you couldn't win anything is way too high That happened before when Hatoko and I went to an arcade before...

Getting all gloomy after remembering the painful past, Sayumi-san started her special commentary.

"The the main demographics of the Light Novels, the chances of these people having trouble imagining a date with opposite sex might be high. In that regard an arcade will be a familiar place. Using the crane game to show off the main

character's special ability and his thoughtfulness, and furthermore show that our dignified heroine has girly side to her who can be wooed with cute stuffed dolls. I guess you can say it is used to hit these two effects."

..... As usual it was a commentary devoid of any hopes and dreams but I can agree with that.

Amazing, these crane games.

Combining three [Awakening], [Crane game], [Power of Friendship], let us call these the Holy Trinity of Light Novel.

Explanation for <Power of Friendship> will be for next time.

"Crane game eh~ Now i think about it, I haven't gone in awhile~."

Hatoko said to me in a joyful tone.

"You know, I still kept that teddy bear Ju-kun spent 5000 Yen on without losing it till now~."

"G-guu!"

Old wound was reopened by an innocent blade.

... .. Hatoko. This might be a good memory of yours that you can just laugh about, but to me it's a memory that still accompanies a deep regret of mine ...

When I was about to be beyond recoverable, Sayumi-san said 'Let's get back to the topic' and took the lead.

"Anyway, for the subject of Relay Novel, conclusion is that from now on 'Ando-kun won't participate', does everyone agree?"

"[No objection]"

I've been unanimously outcasted. What is this public bullying...

"But in reality. I think it'll be hard to create Relay Novel. These type of composition is usually best between friends."

"That's true. Even the ones we've done in the past were mostly things only we would understand. Do we need to change the method then... Any ideas Hatoko?"

Tomoyo turned to Hatoko. After folding her arm and groaning for a bit, Hatoko clapped like she thought of something.

“Tomoyo. In other words, we just don’t want literature club to be scolded by the Student Council president right?”

“Yeah. the reason we are searching for new activities is just for that one reason, and not it’s true intentions.”

“Then let’s just beg the student council president. “Please just cut us some slack~” like this.”

That response was something totally amiss, but at the same time a revolutionary idea, an ethereal idea just something Hatoko would think of.

Tomoyo’s face said she can’t even respond to that idea.

“Hatoko... that’s, well?”

“That’s right, Hatoko. Student Council President is one of ‘Their’ minions. To bow our head to them even as a temporal solution, my pride won’t let me do such a thing.”

“You just be quiet Ando.”

“Uu~ I thought it was a nice idea~”

“Hmm, but Hatoko’s idea has also got it’s own merits. Instead of following other’s opinions, we can cause an action from completely different angle.”

After thinking for a bit, I thought of a brilliant idea.

“Okay, Tomoyo. Commence hacking of Student Council president's PC! We must find all of her weaknesses!”

“As if i could do that!!”

“Ah, you can’t?”

“What’s up with that surprised face?!”

“But the only thing you do is play around with that computer of yours.”

“Even so how can I even hack! There’s no High school student who has that kind of super ability!”

“There are a lot in manga and anime. Surprising amounts too. Genius cracker <?hacker> who happen to be a Highschool student, or brilliant inventor at High School age.”

“That’s fiction!”

“What’s up with you. Since you always carry around that stupid computer of yours, so I was hoping that you had hidden skill like that... Haaaa.....”

“Stop being disappointed! What have i done wrong?!”

Having a conversation with Tomoyo like that, I suddenly remembered something.

I remembered her half-brother Kiryu-san.

Thinking back, that person was also a member of literature club in that past. Maybe he also had a dilemma about the same things like us right now.

When I was thinking about that without any thoughts, I felt a gaze from the side. Looking at the source, I saw Sayumi-san had approached my face and had been observing this side of my face.

“Ahh! W-What is it? Sayumi-san.”

“... I can smell something.”

“S-Smell?”

“Fujoshi sensor inside me has activated.”

“Fujoshi sensor?! What the hell is that?!”

“Girls have that kind of thing in them.”

I sent a ‘really?’ gaze toward Tomoyo. She quickly shook her head.

Sayumi-san then proclaimed confidently.

“Ando-kun. It looks like you are in love with a fellow man!”

“WHAT?!”

I’m shocked at the sudden proclamation. What is this person even saying?

“Over the few days, it feels like you have become much more adult like. Unlike before, it’s like there is a charm of immorality reeking from you.”

“I-Is that so...?”

“You are in love and have the charm of an adult on you.”

Sayumi-san is spouting nonsense. Quite unusual actually.

But why is it that, even though I’m getting praised by a girl, I feel a little bit unhappy?

“Ando-kun. Have you perhaps had a meeting with a handsome man recently?”

“Well, if we are talking about meetings, I did have a fated meeting with a handsome guy...”

“Fated?!” “No! Not the fated one girl's love, but the fated one chuunis love!”

Oh crap! Without paying attention, I admitted to being chuuni.

“...Cut me some slack Sayumi-san. It’s true that I do love him, think about him whenever I’m bored, wonder things like ‘If it were him, would he like it?’ whenever I come up with aliases while remembering him, and think deeply about how I want to meet and talk with him again, but...”

“If that isn’t love, then what is?!”

“What?! It’s true!”

This is love!

I have fallen in love with Kiryu-san!

Surprisingly, I myself didn’t even know about my own feelings.

“...Wow, So I have fallen in love with a guy... I am... I am...”

I fell to the floor on my knees in despair. Suddenly, a hand was gently placed on my shoulder. When I lifted my face, Sayumi-san smiled like a godmother.

“Ando-kun. There is nothing to be ashamed of. No, it’s ok to be embarrassed. The thing known as love is embarrassing for anyone of any age.”

“Sayumi-san... I was wrong. Until now, I wasn’t honest with myself. I, I, actually like—”

“As if!”

In an instant, my body suffered countless blows. Not consecutive blows, but perfectly simultaneous blows. A rush of more than 10 retorts was instantly felt without even the tiniest space between each.

This is a stunt only the girl who can control time can do.

“Guh... [Closed Clock], you bastard! You used [Instant Jail]...”

Let me explain!

[Instant Jail] is a retort rush finishing move that can only be activated when Tomoyo Kanzaki's stress exceeds a certain threshold.

...It doesn't do any damage, but is not used in the everyday life, so it make you feel bad!

“You guys! It's fine to fool around, but don't involve someone else's big brother!”

“I, It's not like I like your big brother or anything!”

“Don't do a tsundere act!”

“Yeah, well... Sorry about that. It's just fooling around as usual, so forgive us. Right, Sayumi-san? You weren't serious about what you said either, right?”

“That's right. It was just a joke, so don't take it seriously. I am not the type of fujoshi who would confuse real life with delusions. ...Tch.”

Huh. Did she just click her tongue at the end? Hey, she discreetly clicked her tongue right?

“Tomoyo-chan's big brother?”

Hatoko made a wondering face.

“Ju-kun. You have met Tomoyo-chan's big brother?”

“Ah. Ah...”

Oh crap. In the flow of the conversation, we accidentally brought up Kiryu-san.

It's not like Tomoyo forbid me from speaking about him, but when thinking about the complicated circumstances around the Kanzaki family, I thought it

was best not to let the others know about it and kept silent about it.

“...Sorry.”

“It’s fine. In fact, I don’t like it more when you are being too considerate of me.”

Tomoyo didn’t care too much and explained it in short to everyone with “I met Ando by chance some time ago”.

“Hmm. What is Tomoyo-chan’s big brother doing? Is he a university student? A worker?”

At the casual small talk, Tomoyo’s expression froze.

Hey you, that’s a taboo word...

“H, He is, um... Free...dom?”

He is not even a part-time worker. That reminds me, he told me he got fired.

“In other words, Ando-kun is in love with your big brother...! What an incredible thing. I expect some muddy development like the ones in soap operas.”

“What the hell are you saying with your eyes all sparkly Sayumi-san?!”

“Ju-kun... It can’t be... Ju-kun, likes, that guy...?”

“Why the hell are you making a face like the world is gonna end?!”

“Ju-kun, even though you promised a long time ago... ‘When I grow up, I will—’”

“Ah, did I say something like ‘Make you my wife’? That was just some children’s talk...”

“—When I grow up, I will awaken you, release your inner power, and let you live your new life as the immortal bird of darkness!’ is what you promised me...”

“Did I say something like that?!”

No, it sounds like something I would say! It sounds like a cool thing I would say!

And like this, our clubroom became noisy.

In the middle of the noisy uproar, the girl who had been spacing out from the beginning to the end, muttered with a flat voice.

“What will be the new activity of this club?”

“...”

The three high schoolers all went silent at once.

It was the picture of a grade schooler correcting the path of high schoolers.

The conversation strayed off from the subject and in the end, we didn't reach any conclusion.

In this club, it was a common occurrence.

Part 3

Although our meeting continued after that, but it ended without us finding any good ideas.

“Let’s call it a day. Everybody let’s hurry home quickly, if we go past the school time too much our already bad reputation will get worse.”

At Sayumi-san’s urge everyone hurriedly started to pack up. Everyone hastily put the notebook and pencil case that were used for the meeting back into their bag.

Just then... I saw an end of the black notebook in the middle of the table.

This dark thing was [Bloody Bible]?

Eh? Did i take out my [Bloody Bible] from my bag today?

“Ju-kun hurry hurry~”

“Yeah i’m coming.”

For now i shoved my [Bloody Bible] into my bag and left the club room. I ran towards Hatoko and rest of the gang walking next to each other.

That’s that... but it was unexpected that we were unable find any solution.

I’ve got a feeling that we just finished our day without achieving anything again.

“You know~ Ju-kun.”

When the mood was getting sober, Hatoko poked her face in front of mine and smiled brightly.

“It was fun today too right~?”

That face, was genuinely smiling from happiness.

“... That is so” and I just laughed.

Today’s Literature club activities were... as usual.

It may be worthless, but it does mean something.

That is our activity.

There was no reason to find new activity.

All we have to do was stand up and proudly say that we're doing something.

We will not let anyone say that this club is 'useless'

Be it Student Council president, or God, or Dio-sama...

"... Wait. Maybe Dio-sama is still too much?"

Chapter 6: The Scripture Abandoned by God

Part 1

“Hmm”

That evening, in my room at home, I was sitting by my desk pondering.

I went home from school, had dinner with my parents and sister, took a shower, and now I’m here.

What I’m thinking about is—

“Maybe I should have used simpler characters for <Dark and Dark> instead?”

[\[1\]](#)

A problem which is comparable to Fermat’s Last Theorem in terms of challenge and difficulty is troubling me.

When I first thought about it, anything other than ‘黒焰’ wasn’t right. I thought that the charm the ‘焰’ character had was many levels above the ‘炎’ character.

By the way, it’s ‘焰’, not ‘焰’. If the lower right part is not a 𤇀 character to create the ‘焰’, it’s no good. As a person who have (arbitrarily) inherited the Will of the Flame Alchemist, I cannot let it be any other way.

But since then, half a year has passed.

People grow after half a year. I am not who I was before. That is why, I was thinking using a simple kanji like ‘炎’ may actually be cooler.

... If Tomoyo was here, I feel like she would just make a “Whatever works!” retort with full force, but whatever doesn’t work here.

The name represents the body.

These words are hinting that, in a supernatural battle, the ability name is also very important (probably).

“Alright. I need to see the power myself at times like this. Feels is very

important, the feels.”

Standing up, I put my right arm forward.

Concentrating with all my might, I cast my perfected seal removal incantation (which after consideration, I decided to limit the number of ‘chaos’ to one)!

“I am the true ruler of all things chaotic! The abyss—”

“Shut up!”

BANG!

My sister from the room next door bashed against the wall.

“S-Sorry sis.”

“If you start babbling again, I’ll beat you to death!”

She just threatened to kill me, that sister of mine.

I shiver at the killing intent that I can feel over the wall.

Machi Andou. First year college student. Her looks are ok. Her temper, a disaster.

Because she was born in March, her name became Machi. [\[2\]](#)

...I wonder what our parents would do if their children were born in January or February.

They would probably give stupid names like January-kun and February-chan to them.

The wall that separates my room and my sister’s room is thin, so if you are loud even a little bit, the sound will immediately leak over to the other room. That’s why, if I am even a little bit noisy, my sister will immediately bash against the wall.

Really, such an annoying sister.

“Just now, you thought something like ‘such an annoying sister’ didn’t you!”

BANG!

“I didn’t! Sorry!”

Is she an esper?! Scary.

Being scared off by her fearsome wall slam i gave up trying to activate my ability and once again started to ponder about the ability name.

Yup, <黒焰> sounds better.

It also feels wrong to change it after all this time.

After deciding so I walked towards the desk. In order to continue living by wearing the false demeanor as highschool boy i need to do my homework every day.

“Hmm?”

As soon as the bag was opened, I detected something strange.

There are two black notebooks. Taking it out, one was my [Bloody Bible].

The other one was---

“T-This is! [Reverse Crux Record]?!”

Reverse cross, symbol of rebel against the God, drawn right onto the pitch dark cover!

There’s no mistake. This is Kiryuu-san’s black history notebook, which is not a black history notebook, that I saw some days ago.

Why is this book in my bag?

“... Ah, that must be it. Back in the club room, that notebook I put inside the bag in hurry wasn’t my [Bloody Bible], but this [Reverse Crux Record].”

No but, then why in the hell is this book inside our club room. Possibility of Kiryu-san sneaking into our room is quite low...

My head is being filled with many questions, but from overwhelming questions little temptation bloomed.

I want to read it.

I want to read this book that Kiryu-san wrote.

“... Well, i’m sure there’s nothing wrong with reading it. I’ve shown him my [Bloody Bible]. Eye for an eye.”

Falling into temptation so easily, i just simply decided to read the book.

-- Are you sure?

Out of nowhere a voice came to my head.

“W-Who are you?!”

I hurriedly looked behind, but no one was there. However the unknown voice continued.

-- You cannot go back once you open that [Revered Crux Record]?

“O-Oi! Who’s there?! C-Can’t be, <Dark and Dark>?! You, finally you can make conversation with...”

BANG!

I shut my mouth at that wall slam. It’s dangerous, wall slam that isn’t followed by any comment is a sign of nee-chan about to explode. Let’s stop with voices in my head scenario.

I took a deep breath and once again, stared at the notebook.

This time, without any hesitation, I opened up the book normally.

I held my breath

“This is---”

Next morning, i took off from home earlier than usual.

As soon as i arrived at school, instead of my classroom, I headed toward the club room. Obviously we haven’t gathered for anything like a morning practice in literature club.

As expected, when i peeped into the room there she was. In embarrassed expression, she was looking for something.

Opening the door, i enter.

“Oi”

“Kuu!”

At my voice, she... Tomoyo’s shoulder flinched. Stiff like a robot, she turned around.

“A-Ando... What’s up? You’re early toda....”

“Nothing. What about you?”

“M-Me too...”

“I’m gonna prepare some tea. You want some?”

“Ah, yeah...”

Like that, we sat facing each other. After finishing the first cup, I said lightly, like passing words.

“So you want to become a light novel author?”

Part 2

To begin with the conclusion, the [Reverse Cruz Record] that I've brought back from the club room did not belong to Kiryuu-san, to be more precise, that wasn't [Reverse Cruz Record] to begin with.

That notebook just had the same design as kiryuu-san's book, but just an ordinary notebook. Of course, since i have never read his notebook, this is all an assumption. However the 'womanly writing' that was on that book couldn't have been Kiryuu-san's.

Which means the owner of this notebook is highly likely the female who owns notebook of same design of Kiryuu-san, on top of that a person who visits here often.

Kanzaki Tomoyo, only she could be the one.

I now understand why she hid her laptop like that the other day. She must have been writing stuff in club room when nobody was here, then she got into the mood and made that pose in front of the mirror, then i happen to witness that.

"A, Aaaaaaaa, aaaaaaaaa....."

At my words, Tomoyo made some kind of unrecognisable noise. Her face repeatedly turned red and blue, and her mouth kept opening and closing like a goldfish.

"W-W-W-What are you talking..."

"This is yours right?"

I took the notebook out from my bag and showed it to her.

This wasn't [Reverse Crux Record]. This was...

"This is what they call an idea book right?"

"Uuu20:55, 29 January 2018 (CET)~!"

Suddenly, her idea book disappeared.

<Closed Clock> must have been activated. When i was wondering where she would have disappeared to after stopping the time, just like before she was squatting in the corner of the room.

Maybe she always goes to the corner and sulk whenever there's a threat.
Just like Armadillos.

"W-Why did you even read! Idiot! Breach of Privacy! Go die!"

"What do you want. I thought it belonged to Kiryuu-san. But I never thought there would be two [Reverse Crux Record]."

"T-There aren't two books... there were a bunch of notebooks that Hajime-nii-chan failed to turn into his dark history book, so i thought it would be waste if I didn't recycle it..."

Tomoyo said in trembling voice. Her shrunken back also trembled.

Well, I understand that feeling.

In her idea book, there was a character plot, world plot, synopsis, story plot, *etc.* that were written as bases of a light novel.

Even if they aren't a main part of the novel, it was a creation by Tomoyo Kanzaki.

For their own creation to be seen by the others, it's extremely embarrassing. Just like when Kiryuu-san read my [Bloody Bible], i wanted to die.

Since he was just like me the wound wasn't as deep, but even then i didn't think it was a good idea.

As a person who always messes around felt that embarrassed, the embarrassment that Tomoyo must be feeling can't be measured.

"Well, i'm sorry...."

So i sincerely apologised.

"D-Don't laugh... This is the worst... Of all people, it was you..."

"I said i was sorry."

"I-It's not like i'm aiming to be one or something! Just, i simply just wrote

something out of boredom...”

“Don’t lie.”

I shut her down. I’ve got no clue if she is genuinely aiming to be a Light Novel author, but I knew for the fact that this was far beyond ‘out of boredom’ or ‘just on a whim’.

“H-How would you know!”

“That’s because you wrote down the deadline for new author award.”

“Ku!”

“You also wrote down your hopeful illustrator list.”

“Kuu?!”

The reason how i noticed that this wasn’t just a normal writing, but a Light Novel is because of that. Also the way main characters in character background section was written as [Heroine 1] and [Heroine 2] also gave it away.

You will not refer female character = Heroine in normal literature.

“Hey you were also practicing your pen name autograph nicely.”

“Just kill me now-----!”

Standing up with force, Tomoyo grabbed my collar and violently shook me. Her face was bright red and there was a hint of tear at the end of her eye.

“But you, what is with that smug face?! It’s pissing me off! Laugh if you want to laugh!”

“What? What do you want me to laugh at? What is so funny?”

When I said that so calmly, Tomoyo became dumbfounded.

“Huu.....? B-But, writing a light novel... That’s strange right? And also embarrassing.”

“What’s so embarrassing about Light Novels?”

I said that, but i can understand the feeling of embarrassment and wanting to hide it. To write a novel isn’t a normal activity, it’s not an activity that people do like, like football and baseball.”

Hence, the creator is embarrassed, and it's not something that others also acknowledge.

"E-Even so... autographing practice when I haven't even debuted. Surely I should wake..."

"Heh? I do things like that everyday though?"

I'm not aiming for author, but I do still practice my autograph.

I can proudly write them in both kanji and english.

"... Oh I forgot, i'm talking to Ando right now."

Tomoyo said something obvious. Even then, I wonder why I feel like i've been made a butt of a joke.

"This is literature club in the first place you know? What's wrong with writing a novel. We all wrote something for club magazine, and we also wrote some relay novel."

"But no one here is seriously thinking of going pro..."

"Yeah that's true..."

No one here has earnestly tried to write a novel or a short story to submit for a new comer competition somewhere. I don't think Hatoko or Sayumi-san has either.

Until I was in middle school, I thought people who entered the literature club wanted to become a writer in the future, but when I actually joined it, that prejudice got destroyed.

Liking books = Wanting to become a writer in the future, is a false statement.

But—There are certainly people who join the literature club because they want to become a writer.

For example, this girl who is still crying.

"Besides, don't be embarrassed by something like writing a light novel. If you are embarrassed by something like that, think about how embarrassing I am when I spend day and night inscribing the truth of this world in my 'Bloody Bible'."

“...No, you are so embarrassing that it’s painful to watch.”

Tomoyo is saying some terrible things. I’m gonna cry, I’m gonna cry you bastard.

“Haa... Forget it. After talking to you, I feel like my shame is gone. I guess people really do feel relieved when they see someone else doing worse.”

She became serious and said it with a resolute attitude, like the attitude of a small animal before was all just a lie. Her saying that I was doing worse was a bit annoying, but I let it slide for now.

“That’s right. I am trying to become a writer... Well... I guess that’s not quite right. It’s not so much that I want to become a writer. I want to try publishing a book... I want many people to read my stories. I want them to be reviewed...”

I could painfully understand her feeling behind those word she spoke weakly.

There were countless times where I also wanted to be an author or a manga artist. Many times I copied my favourite manga, or wrote the after story of my favourite light novel.

Which Devil fruit shall I make them eat? Which Zanpakutou should I give them, Which stand shall I make them awaken? Which nen ability should they have?

I had those daydream countless of times, and there are few times where I wanted to make the dream into reality.

That’s why I can’t laugh at her dreams.

“I know that I won’t be able to become a pro that easily, and I think that I’m not even that good but... for now I am enjoying writing...”

“Is that so, then isn’t that fine, having fun?”

That’s given. Maybe you can’t become a pro just by enjoying yourself, but if you aren’t even enjoying what you are doing, then even the things that could have been solved easily will be ruined.

“... Are you going to cheer me on?”

Tomoyo gave me a gaze that said she expected something from me. After

some thought, I gave her an answer.

“I won’t be cheering on.”

That is what I told her.

“Wha.....?”

She made an expression like being betrayed.

“Well... I don’t think I should be cheering people on in this situation. When a friend wants to become something unstable like an author or a mangaka or any other artist like musician, comedian and such, how can I say things like ”

[Come on, you’ll definitely make it]

To cheer someone on like that without anything to back it up is easy. There’s no danger of failure on the side that is cheering on, and the ones that is being cheered on also gets morale boost.

However.

“Anyone can cheer someone on, but only ones close to you can worry about you.”

Only ones that can do that is your family, significant other--- and your friends “If Tomoyo was a type of person who boast their dream like ‘I’m becoming an author, aren’t I great?’ then I would happily cheer you on. But you aren’t that kind of person.”

“.....”

“I still don’t know how genuine you are. If you’re writing that light novel just for fun then it would have been fine, but if you are seriously considering becoming an author, go pro then I can’t just cheer you on like that.”

As friend, I added that final words.

Tomoyo was listening to me with her head down, while twiddling her fingers.

“... How come.”

She said in a small voice.

“How come you... even though you just mess around like an idiot normally...

how come you say these kind of reliable things in situation like now...”

“Oi shut it. I’m always reliable.”

Then there was an awkward silence.

Maybe i said something bit too harsh. I wanted to change the current mood here, so i continued in a bright voice.

“Well, if you want someone to read your novel, then I’ll gladly accept it.”

“No way.”

She replied straight away. A reflexive and instant decision.

H-Hey?

Isn’t that too harsh? Shouldn’t be the situation where she shyly lowers her head and say ‘Y-Yeah’?

Read the mood you.

“I won’t show it to you only ever.”

“W-What do you mean ‘you only’... Ah, is that because of that every last story you wrote?”

When i said so, Tomoyo’s face stiffened.

The very last story written there was plot of Inou Battle itself.

Only a synopsis of entire story was written there, but to summarize it in one sentence. It was a story about a main hero who controls a black flame, and main heroine who controls the time.

Without a doubt it was modeled after me and herself. It was a story that had been heavily influenced by the supernatural powers of us literature club.

And umm... well, there were some scenes where the character modeled after me and the character modeled after Tomoyo were flirting around and accidentally tripping over and groping her breasts, or a scene where he accidentally entering a bathroom without knocking, like that...

“T-T-That’s not. That’s not it!”

Reddening her face, Tomoyo waved her hands around.

“I-It’s not like i’m thinking you like in that kind of way, it’s just---”

“Yeah I know. I don’t have that kind of stupid thoughts.”

“--- When I was thinking about a new story then without even thinking about it... wait what?”

“Author and their work are separate things.”

I told her flat-out.

To talk about author and their work as they are related is one of the most foolish thing to do in this world.

For example, the idea that mystery writer likes murder, or the one who writes lolicon novels are lolicons, or that Harem Light Novel authors write them because they are virgins, and that Inou Battle authors are chuunis.

Having such prejudice means that their love for the work is lacking.

Literature isn’t just written solely on author’s wish.

So even if Tomoyo wrote about the character models off us two being all flirty, I shouldn’t be deluded.

... I who does not get deluded easily. So cool.

“It’s something like it was easier for the plot to go that way or something right?”

“Eh...? Ah, y-yeah! Yes! That’s exactly it!”

Tomoyo hurriedly blurted that out, and then gave a deep sigh for some reason.

“..... Ando, don’t tell anyone about this.”

“I know. But can’t you tell this if it’s only for the literature club? No one here would laugh at you i think.”

“That maybe so... but it’s embarrassing. And I thought getting some results before telling them was a better idea...”

After getting some results eh? She doesn’t like to show her weakness to others.

“Results you say. For that information, what’s your current result so far?”

When i asked lightly, Tomoyo sharply turned her head around. A-Ara? did I step on a mine?

“..... R-Rejected from first round twice.”

“.....”

Many of new comer awards have first, second and third rounds of evaluation stages.

I like light novels so I know a bit about these but... first round eliminations isn’t a good results is it?

Ah-- yeah, no wonder she didn’t want to talk about it to others.

It’s bit harsh to say it like this but, the plot she had on her idea notepad didn’t seems to be fun to begin with. Even if she tries to write something the story revolves around a girl’s perspective.

It’ feels like a same situation as Aoki Ko sensei who couldn’t draw underwear fanservice scene that guys would like.

When it got awkward for me to react,

“... It’s not going well regardless.”

Tomoyo said in half-given up way and narrowed her eyes blankly.

And--- then i realised there was book pyramid on the table.

This phenomenon where you realised something has happen was because of <Closed Clock>’s---

“To control time. Even if i have this amazing power I can’t even write one decent novel.”

Tomoyo ranted in small voice and demolished the pyramid by pushing it lightly. Looking from side she had self-mocking kind of smile on her face.

“It’s not like it’s helpful at making my family happy, and it doesn’t even help in making my dream come true... I have been wanting this ability to stop time before, but now that I really have it, it’s more boring than I thought.”

“.....”

“Even if I shout [URYYYYYYYYYYYYYY-----!] after freezing time, since everyone’s frozen no one reacts so it’s boring.”

“Eh? You were doing that kind of thing?”

“Gasp! T-That was a lie!”

Woah.... This girl, she was playing Dio-sama on her own.

It looks like she is blind to her own shortcomings... She sure is a pain in the ass.

“A-Anyway! I’m just saying that my powers doesn’t even help me!”

“It doesn’t help huh...”

Repeating her last words, I replied sarcastically

“So what? Did you want a power that makes your family get along, or an ability that makes you able to write interesting stories?”

“Hmph, You’re joking right?”

Tomoyo laughed confidently.

“There’s no meaning in those kinda things.”

I nodded silently.

Yes, she was right.

There’s no fun in borrowing your abilities power.

“Tomoyo. Just watch this.

I got up, widened my stance and took my right hand forward.

“I am the true ruler of chaos! Purgatorial hellfire dancing in the abyss, distorting black flame in turbid crimson darkness, the light that leads to madness, screams, and destruction, admonishing sin with sin, gouge your dark fragment in my body, and bare your fangs against arrogant providence!”

While shouting my new release chant, I activate my ability.

“<DARK AND DARK>!”

Dark flame burns up from my right arm. It's a bit lacking in effect with just my arm so I made the flame erupt from all over my body like aura, and padded the flame little bit more around both of my shoulders.

Making it flawlessly cool.

Making it cool regardless of what happens.

"How's this, Tomoyo--- No. <Closed Clock>."

"What... do you mean..."

"It's cool, isn't it?"

I continued

"Powers are really cool. And that's it. That's all they have to be."

No one should become miserable even by an accident because of these powers.

And--- they shouldn't be happy either.

It's good enough that it's just cool..

"... Haaaaa..."

Sighing loudly, Tomoyo said with a small smile on her face.

"Chunni, good work."



Part 3

After school, everyone came as usual.

“Chifuyu, do you want a cookie~? I made them today during home economics class~.”

“I want one.”

“Sayumi-san. Can you teach me this part please.”

“That’s first X. after calculating the area of this triangle---”

The scene inside this room was something that any high school room would look like.

With normal looking High school students.

“This cookie is also good with chocolate~. Let me melt them with my fire~.”

“I think cinnamon is good too. I ‘ve got some in my home fridge so I’ll bring them. It’ll be quick when i make ‘Gate’.”

“Ah Sayumi-san. I spilled some juice on my skirt. Could you please?”

“Yes sure. I’ll return them back to normal.”

... Well, we might be a little special.

Even so, everything here is normal everyday scenery to me.

Half a year ago, we had obtained supernatural abilities.

As a result, my everyday life would have been utterly and completely destroyed... or so I thought, but that never happened.

Everyday life, it seems that it is far stronger than what I had expected of it.

“Kuku.”

I laughed at the scene which I can call everyday life.

“It’s not bad raising my talent in preparation for the inevitable fight.”

“I’ve never seen you use a talent you’ve raised.”

A calm retort came from Tomoyo.

Just then, the club room door was opened and a female student came in.

Sharp eyes and shut mouth. With a straight posture, she glared at us Literature club members.

“Excuse me, this is the Literature club correct?”

“Kudo-san. How can I help you?” Sayumi-san replied.

The unexpected visitor was the Student Council president Kudo Mirei-san. Strict-to-regulation uniform. With an elegant look and figure. She is a beauty, but gives off an impression of being inflexible and up-tight.

“I came here to observe the literature club today.”

“To observe us?”

“I’ve told the president Takanashi many times before, but I am questioning the continuation of Literature club. Our school isn’t affluent enough to spend the budget and club room on a club where there aren’t many members and ones that don’t have proper activities.”

“I do apologise but our Literature club is a club that has been traditionally been continued ever since the founding of the school. Won’t it be too much to shut down such a club for no reason at all?”

“You could bully the past staffs and student council, but I’m different from them. Doesn’t matter if it has a history or a tradition. If it serves no purpose then it should be removed.”

At Kudo-san’s frankness Sayumi-san frowned.

The student council president's opinions are certainly valid. If someone asks what our literature club brings to the school then we’ve got nothing to answer back with.

Since we do absolutely nothing.

Well even then we aren’t going to just shut our mouth and give up.

I look around our members, and they look like they have same opinion as me.

“Kuku”

I smirked

It was a most me-like smirk.

To fight the student council with our club as the collateral. My my. The only way to settle this problem is to use your powers.

“Why don’t you just be honest and say you came to spy on us instead of observe us? Prez.”

Well, even if there are no significant event happening right now, nor even if there are no inou battle scenarios, i’m just living as I do right now.

As Guiltia Sin Jurai, I’m continuing to live as cool as possible.

“Such thing as your true identity, I have already seen through such thing. How long are you going to project your false self? Is your end goal trying to get closer to us by spewing nonsense such as continuation of this club?

Kudo-san’s gaze full of hatred fell on me. Woah, that’s scary.

But my lines don’t stop there.

“I understand you fearing such a strong foe such as us. However, I really hate such dull tactics. Why don’t you stop and show me your true nature and entertain...”

“SHUT UP, CHUUNI!”

I got hit by Tomoyo.

Hatoko was murmuring “Ju-kun. Read the mood here...”, and Chifuyu was looking at me like I was an UMA. Sayumi-san was saying “I’m so sorry, Kudo-san. That kid has massive problem with his head...” and lowered her head like a manager apologising for their subordinate’s mistakes.

But I’m not going to back down by something like this.

Even if people avoid me saying how pitiful I look, I will walk the road that I think is cool.

In this reality that won’t be shattered however much I try and in the normal everyday life I don’t want to shatter, I live carrying the sins of being a chuuni.

Because the pitiful me full of sins is the coolest.

“... How come.”

I was having my own victorious moment, when Kudo-san spoke repeatedly. Her voice was trembling. Was she mad at my declaration?

What, you've got more to say.

... She most likely has.

Even though in my view, that tension was the end of volume 1.

Maybe because she was able to feel the anger of the student council president, Tomoyo whispered to me.

“Hey Ando. This is not good. She's totally about to explode. Hurry up and apologise.”

“Fuut. As expected you didn't like being treated like a discard. Of course, since you are a senior, I should have addressed you more properly.”

“THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!”

Suddenly, Kudo-san raised her head and glared at me.

“How come Ando Jurai...”

Her eye was filled with anger and... agitation. Her expression was of extreme anger but, it also had hint of scaredness.

Why is that? While I was confused, Kudo-san said

“How did you figure out my true identity?”

Kudo-senpai said such.

“.....Huh?”

Everyone's mind went blank.

“Don't play dumb. All of it... It's just as you said. I've been spying on you guys

all this time. Whatever I said about the usefulness of literature club was just an excuse. Just as you've said I've been disguising myself and been investigating you guys all this time."

All of our thoughts froze at that instant. We've no idea what is going on anymore.

Wait. Just wait a second.

What in the hell is this student council president saying now?

Are you just going along with what I said, or are you really...

"I have been spying on you all this time. You people who have awoken to superpowers.

Everyone got shocked by Kudo-san's words. This person knew that we had superpowers. That must mean...

"Can it be that, Kudo-san also has superpowers?!"

"Hmph, stop acting oblivious, Ando Jurai. Didn't you say before? You've seen through my true identity. That must mean you've seen that I've got superpowers too?"

"A-A-Ahh... Y-Yes that's correct!"

"I've been underestimating you, I must give you credit Ando Jurai. I thought my cover was perfect. Since when have you known?"

"T-That is... Uhhh..."

"Does that mean you won't tell me? Well that's to be expected, there's no way you'll tell your enemy."

She's just giving it to me right now. Thanks to that I've been able to salvage my pride, but that's not important right now.

What can I say about this...

Maybe 'Speaking of the devil', or maybe 'Be careful of what you wish for'

N-No, I can say it like this.

“The situation is escalating so quickly it’s funny!”

What is up with this situation.

After half a year since we awoke to our superpowers nothing had happened, but finally an enemy(?) appeared.

Not only that, of all people it’s the student council president, who can also use superpowers.

“Th-This is... can we say that Ando-kun’s chuuni power has worked spectacularly in a weird way?”

Sayumi-san who was near Kudo-san turned pale while walking to our side. Me, tomoyo, Hatoko and Chifuyu who were sitting at the table got up and stepped back from Kudo-san.

No, it wasn’t a cool movement of ‘stepping back’, it simply was just running away scared. We don’t know what to do in this situation detached from reality.

“C-Calm down everyone. I am with you.”

I say it to everyone, Aiming at the effect of calming everyone by talking to them.

“D-Don’t worry. I read ton of Jump manga that got canned after it got into a battle scene.”

“How the hell can we calm down from that?!” From Tomoyo.

“I also read a ton of Light Novel where they forced the story into battle when it was Rom-Com at the beginning.”

“And so how the hell will that help?!”

“I also read some works where they turned from mystery genre into supernatural battle scene in the middle...”

“That’s just nonsense!”

Maybe because of being nervous, her retorts were a bit crude, but thanks to our conversation, my head got cleared.

“So Kudo-sa... n-no, Kudo Mirei.”

I hurriedly fixed that. Let's go with this character for now.

“What is your goal?”

“Do you think I'll tell you people?”

“That's true... then I'll change my question.”

I spoke.

“What do you know about the abilities that we've got?”

Why we have awakened our powers.

Why we were the ones who have awakened the powers.

“If you manage to win against me, I'll tell you.”

Saying that, Kudo-san made a confident smile.

“You say to win...”

“Don't worry. I'm not saying you should put your life at stake. You simply have to duel it out with our powers. Well, just be prepared to sacrifice one or two bones.

Kudo-san took a step forward. Just from that, all of us took a step back.

“A-Ando. What should we do?”

She whispered to me.

“Should I use my <Closed Clock> and attack....?”

She said that bravely, but her eye was filled with worry. It's true that if it's Tomoyo, she surely will be able to act faster than anyone else.

In front of <Closed Clock> concept of Speed is all lost.

Except. Not only Tomoyo, none of us have any type of real-fighting experience. Even if we own god-class powers, there was not a single time where we used our powers to hurt someone else.

Compared to our powerful ability we haven't got mental attitude.

“Ando-kun”, “Ju-Kun...”, “Ando”.

Other three were also looking my way, they all had same look on their face. Worry, restlessness, and small amount of determination. I can feel their will that in a pinch, they will handle the situation without hesitation.

We don't have such heroine that just eat food and needed to be protected.

Seeing such determination.

"I'll deal with this."

That's all i could every say.

I took a step forward.

"Y-You idiot! What are you saying?!"

"T-That's right Ju-kun! If it's you..."

I push Tomoyo and Hatoko aside and took another step forward.

My <Dark and Dark> is power only for its looks. I don't know what power Kudo-san has but there's no way we'll win with my power.

Even so, to stand at the front line of the battle, I marched forward.

"Don't you worry. In a pinch the power of darkness will lend me powers."

That's was half joking, half serious.

It's a sticky situation, but in one corner of my mind I was actually enjoying this.

Emotion I feel in my mind right now is same as half a year ago... similar to when we awakened our powers.

This out of reality situation... plot of supernatural power battle that I always look up to. emotion similar to celebration is welling up from deep part of my heart.

Well, Kudo did say that she has no intention of taking our lives, and with Sayumi-san's <Root of Origin>, won't we be alright even if we get heavily injured? It is a safeguard we also have. Anyway, this is a situation I want to enjoy.

"Kuku. I alone am enough for the likes of you. Let me show you my power

known as <Knock on hell's door>.”

While I was explaining the alias I came up with yesterday, I unbuttoned my blazer.

“Do you know why I go to school wearing this blazer day after day?”

“Because those are the school regulations?”

Kudou said normally. Well, it's true, but that's not it.

“Kuku, It's not because of such thing as school regulations, rather, it's an imprisonment.. A seal used to suppress a massive power which not even I myself can suppress. This blazer is embedded with various magic seals. Its weight is over a hundred kilos.”

I swiftly take off and throw away my blazer. The blazer released from my hand is dancing around in midair.

“Woah... owowow.”

Hatoko, who is very good at interfering, splendidly caught the blazer.

“Hatoko! Why are you catching it normally like that?!”

“Eh, Eeh?!”

“Idiot! That thing is supposed to be very heavy, so you holding it normally like that is weird!”

“Ah! That's right!”

As Hatoko understood, she began doing a really bad play with “W-Whoa. It's so heavy. To have been wearing something this heavy until now. Ju-kun is amazing.”

This damn lousy actor.

Tuting at her, i changed my focus and extended my right arm forward.

As I did something I normally do, Tomoyo raised her voice.

“That idiot! Is he thinking of chanting that release chant even at a time like this?!”

“That's not it Tomoyo-san. You can't just say that Ando-kun's release chant is

without any purpose.”

“Sayumi-san... What do you mean?”

“Ando-kun’s release chant can be considered the same as Pre-shot Routine in sports.”

“Pre-shot Routine... the ones that athletes do every time? Like fixing their sleeves at the baseball batter’s box, or bouncing their tennis ball before serving...”

“Yes. Freeshot routine is any kind of ritual. By purposely doing a movement that you normally do without thinking about it, you gain high amount of focus. By chanting that chant, Ando-kun’s mind has probably turned into special ability mode.”

“... However much he concentrate though with his ability...”

“Let’s believe in him for now. Even we don’t have good grasp of this power, there might be something that we didn’t know before. Ando-kun is someone out of all of us who has properly faced our abilities. Let’s believe in him.”

~”Tomoyo. It’s fine.”

“Chifuyu-chan...”

“Ando knows what to do at times like these.”

“... Ando.”

I feel everyone’s hot gaze on my back.

Everyone’s thoughts become my power.

I breathe heavily, then I chant my release chant!

“I am the true ruler of ch-ch-cha!”

“.....”

Endless silence covers the world.

... I’m doomed. I stuttered. I stuttered at the most important part.

Wow, I wanna die...

Damn, what's gonna happen. The time has already halted. Hey hey, so I can use <Closed Clock> too?

I feel the enormous amount of pressure coming from my back. I can hear them saying "It's my fault for believing in him for a second" in their minds.

Kudo-san in front of me is clearly showing that it's awkward for her to act in such situation through her expression.. Her eyes are saying 'What has this guy been doing up till now?'.

They usually say 'A tiger to the front and a wolf to the back.

"F-Forget the chant! <Dark and Dark>!"

Being so embarrassed to the point where I might die, I went with plan of just going with this and activated my power.

Pre-shot routine. To hell with it.

Activating <Dark and Dark> after utterly ruining the mood.

It was a flame that was transcendently cool like it was always.

"Is that your power Ando?"

"That's right. Born from chaos and darkness, pure dark hellfire that can even kill God himself."

I held out my right arm engulfed in flame.

"Now--- let the beginning of the end begin."

I finish this by uttering overkill ending line.

Kudo-san narrowed her eyes.

And smiled with end of her mouth.

"You showed it. You showed me your power."

"Huh!"

First fierce absent feeling wraps me. I bend my knees and fall to the ground.

My dark flame waiver fiercely.

I can't control <Dark and Dark>... No this is different. I'm losing control of it.

"I'll gladly take your power."

At once dark flame moved to Kudo-san.

"D-<Dark and Dark>! <Dark and Dark>!"

My scream just echos around aimlessly. However much i concentrate, I cannot activate my power.

"K-Kudo Mirei! It can't be, your power is...!"

"That's correct. My power is to steal other people's power."

I'm in shock, but that emotion quickly changed into acceptance.

I was careless. Her words 'Show me your powers', just waiting there instead of attacking us while we were talking amongst ourselves. It was all so she can make me activate my power first.

"<Dark and Dark>..."

I fall down like i was going to split open the floor. I can just instinctively feel that <Dark and Dark> was gone from me.

It's gone. I no longer have <Dark and Dark> inside me.

"The <Dark and Dark> I spent the past six months through good and bad times."

Words of lamentation falls from my mouth. Sadness erupt like I have just lost my companion of life.

"I've been spending my lovely time with it by starting the day off with 'Good morning, <Dark and Dark> and ending the day with 'Good night, <Dark and Dark>..."

"You were doing such a disgusting thing?!"

Tomoyo's retort doesn't even reach my ears anymore.

"My leg, my arms, my heart... I'll give you whatever you want... just give it

back! My one and only power!”

“STOP WITH THAT QUOTE FROM FMA!”

Even at my cry from deepest part of my soul, or even at Tomoyo’s retort, Kudo-san doesn’t give any response.

“Hmm, so this is Ando Jurai’s ability...”

She says, and activates my ability and examines it closely.

... Ahhhh, someone other than me is activating my <Dark and Dark>.

“I’ve been NTR’d... i’ve been NTR’d by my <Dark and Dark> by some newcomer...”

“Isn’t this a bit different?!”

“Damn it! You <Dark and Dark>! Were you just playing around with me! You’ve played me well! As long as they can activate you, you’re fine with that! Bitch! Whore!”

“I keep saying, the reason for your anger is just too weird!”

“...Aaaaa, but what is this. This immoral joy... I’m extremely sad, but little excited too!”

“STOP DEVELOPING FETISH FOR NTR!

“... K-Kuuu.”

I can’t even stand up from humiliation and disgrace. What is this situation, after charging in all confident, in the end getting my ability stolen by the enemy.

“It can only create a black flame huh. Such a useless ability.”

Kudo-san said disappointedly. Looks like she can analyse its property as soon as she steals it from the user.

“I was hoping it had some hidden power, but to think it really was just a useless ability... Well, it doesn’t matter.”

As soon as she finished saying that, she turned her sharp yes towards people behind me.

“My targets were you guys from the beginning anyway.”

I've lost my words.

Ability that steals abilities.

I've experienced such terrifying things.

This person has come to steal everyone's god class ability.

"Maybe I don't need to explain this but, my steal ability can steal infinite amounts of abilities at once. I can steal your abilities while owning Ando Jurai's ability."

At that, even the smallest amount of hope has left. We could have done something if she was only able to have one ability at a time.

If us five's abilities become one with her then she will turn into a monster far above human imagination.

Monster who can even conquer the world.

"All of you come and get me!"

Kudo-san shouted with her arms open and declared loudly. All i could do was grind my teeth on the floor.

Our member's powerful abilities got countered and became the weak point. Stronger we are, the enemy gets far more stronger. Damn, there's no way we can win.

Just then someone walked past me.

"Tomoyo?!"

She stood in front of me and faced Kudo-san.

"W-What are you thinking of doing?"

"I'll be fine so you just stay quiet."

Is she thinking of activating her <Closed Clock> before she gets a chance to steal her ability and finish this quickly. This may sound like possible but, is Kudo-san's ability allows her to steal other's ability as soon as it gets activated then we're finished.

This is a gamble where everything can go wrong with miniscule mistake.

“Are you saying you’ll be the first one to hand over your ability then, Kanzaki Tomoyo.”

“No. I have no intention of doing that.”

“Hmmp, you’ve got a plan huh. Well that’s fine by me. Show me your ability as much as you want!”

“No.”

That was a very short and decisive answer.

Kudo-san’s face became filled with awkwardness..

“... Ah? Wait, what?”

“Because my powers get stolen as soon as I show them right? If that’s the case then I won’t show you them obviously.”

“.....”

“Just then Kudo-san said ‘You showed me, You showed me your ability’ just then when you stole Ando’s ability. Therefore senpai’s ability’s condition is that as soon as other activate their power you check them with your eyes. Am I wrong?”

“T-That is...to

“I guess I’m right. If that’s the case then we won’t be using any of our powers.”

At Tomoyo’s declaration i was dumbfounded.

Ah that’s right.

We could have done that.

If abilities get stolen when we use them, then we won’t use our abilities.

Wait, I never thought of that. It was blind spot.

I never thought of not using powers in power battles.

“So therefore from now on, it’s physical fight. Kudo-san, can you defeat all of us by yourself?”

“Kuu... H-However! I’ve still got Ando Jurai’s power! Even if it’s 5 v 1 i still got an advantage as ability user!”

“Naive! You’re too naive, Kudou-san”

Tomoyo said with a sadistic smile on her face.

“Ando’s ability is honestly, truly, utterly useless!”

“Kuuuu---!”

Kudo-san’s face spread with shock. And that shock also got into my heart.

... How can I say this. Couldn’t you have put it in bit more round about way?

“Ufufufufu.”

Suddenly a creepy laughter filled the room

“Then shall we go with that? Kudo-san, since it’s 5 v 1 it’ll be unfair for you, so as the president I will face off as a representative.”

Sayumi-san joined the party with extremely enjoyable expression on her face.

If it comes to simple fight then this person is definitely number 1.

“Ufufufu. Since you did scare us a bit I might forget to control my strength a bit.”

“T-Takanashi... B-But you are.”

“Black belts in Judo and Karate, is that a problem?”

“Kuu!”

“Ufufufufu.”

It seems like Sayumi-san is enjoying this. Her stress that’s been building up until just now has all exploded. She’s probably thinking “Damn bitch got me all scared up” or something.

Kudo-san went right pale and took few steps back. Looking at her face, it’s likely that apart from my <Dark and Dark>, she hasn’t got any other powers.

“S-Shit.”

After losing her advantage, Kudo-san tried to run away.

But there's no way that'll happen.

“You think I'll let you get away?”

The club room door shuts in front of her. Expecting her to flee, I secretly crawled my way to the door.

“A-Ando Jurai...”

“Keke.”

Making devilish grin, I gloated at this sense of victory like I had planned all this.

“All according to keikaku” [\[3\]](#)

“N-Nani?! ” Kudo-san opened her eyes wide. “Don't tell me, you calculated everything that happened up until this moment...?”

“That's right!”

“You're saying that you've seen through even my ability...! And worried that I'll take your friend's abilities, you acted all high and mighty and took attention away from them. And using your useless power as a bait, you've sealed my ability. The act that looked nothing but foolishness, was that all for this moment....!”

“That's correct!”

“Ando Jurai... are you a genius?! ”

“Kuku. Kukuku. Kuhahahahahahaha!”

This is awesome, this is way too fun.

Using my useless ability I topple one of the most powerful ability

How can I say this, it's like I'm experiencing the fullest extent of joy of Supernatural ability battle.

I who calculated all this to perfection. So cool.

“Stop with your boasting.”

Tomoyo whacked my head.

“What is all according to your calculation, it’s just coincidence.”

“You idiot, this is one of the most common scenarios isn’t it. In some kind of ability battle, when you thought you’ve defeated someone strong, but someone much stronger comes out and say ‘All according to my keikaku’ and in the end everything that our hero has achieved is just a story that this person has written from the beginning! That scenario.”

“But in your case you’ve just forced that scenario right at the end of it all.”

“Now--- if you say it like that, you can say that shounen and Light Novels all have things that make it seem like they are just an afterthought...”

“Don’t ruin other works just because of your stupid pride!”

While having normal conversation with Tomoyo I looked down on the floor.

On the floor was

“NOOOOOOOOOO! I’M SORRY, I’M SO SORRY! I’LL APOLOGISE FOR EVERYTHING UP TILL NOW SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME.....!”

Kudo-san was screaming on the floor after being pinned down by Sayumi-san’s Juji Gatame.

Seeing that, Hatoko stood next to me and asked.

“You know Ju-kun... What did this person want from us in the first place?”

“.....”

It was hard to reply.

She came out of nowhere and got defeated out of nowhere, Kudo-san.

Like her character has been destroyed, it like she’s been done in even before her character was set.

... well whatever the case.

Our the first ever Supernatural ability battle, ended with our overwhelming victory.

Part 4

There's a huge cherry blossom little bit away from the Literature Club room with new leaves about to come out after all the flower has withered. In one of the many branches, one man was hanging on one like a bat. No more like he was standing Up-side Down.

It doesn't seem like he's holding onto anything, just standing there.

Both his dark attire and silver hair, as if to defy this planet's gravity, flutter around.

As if the only the area around that man has reversed.

The dark silhouette of that person was like a Reverse Crux to those who look at it.

"Kaka."

The male had his signature dry laugh. His eyes behind the sunglasses gaze toward the literature club room that he once belonged to. Inside there Ando Jurai, who just defeated Kudo Mirei was laughing.

Ando Jurai... Guiltia Sin Jurai.

The person who gazed at him had a pair of mismatching eyes.

Red, endlessly red. Redder than pomegranate seed, blood, hellfire.. Scarlet right eye.

The person with pair of mismatching eyes... it is I!

"Maybe better in first person."

After finishing introducing myself like a cool protagonist of a novel in third person, i turned my attention back to the room..

Anyway, that's that. Now Ando Jurai.

As expected, you have defeated someone like Kudo Mirei easily.

"Of course he does. It won't be fun if he doesn't. Kaka."

"Finally found you, Hajime."

Just then.

Somebody uttered the name that I go by in this world.

Suddenly space in front of me wane and from my vision which is inverted, a woman came out. Hair, eye colour that doesn't look like it came from this world, her clothing sense. And on her back there was translucent pair of wings that showed that she's a spirit.

"Reatier huh, what's your business here?"

"What do you mean what's my business here. You turned off your phone didn't you?"

"Yeah, since I don't wanna get interrupted by you while watching something fun."

"Stop joking. Go die. If I call you, pick up the phone within 5 seconds you piece of shit."

Reatier floated around and shouted abuse and frowned at me. This girl, her face isn't too bad but her mouth is bit too much.

"Ahh, damn it. Why am I in charge of this guy who's only good point is his face."

"That's my line. I wouldn't mind someone who can understand me."

"What? There's no way someone will be in same wavelength as your worthless sense. Forget human world, not even in the spirit world you'll have anyone."

"Nope, there's one."

I said while looking at the literature club. My voice naturally got enthusiastic.

"In this world where it's filled with idiots who can't hold conversation, I've finally found someone that I can talk to as equal."

"....."

"By the way, move aside Reatier. In a few moments, i will be able to see panties of the lady who's doing Juji Gatame, so stop bothering me."

"WHAT?! Are you that stupid? Did you hear me? I called you because i've got

something for you to do!”

“... Oi.”

The voice that came from my mouth was so cold, even I’m surprised.

“I said ‘move’. And you didn’t move. You know what that means right?”

I didn’t wait for her answer.

Not even hesitating a little bit, i let my destructive impulse take over and released my power.

<Lucifer’s Strike>

Suddenly, a black orb formed on Reatier’s chest. An orb the size of a golf ball that contained darkness that even sucked the light in.

“Eeh?! W-Wait Hajime! Stop...”

She couldn’t finish her sorrowful cry.

The dark orb started to consume all of her. Object, light or space. It consumes everything with terrifying speed without regard. It is reminiscent of a swimming pool drain.

My power, <Lucifer’s Strike>.

That power is... gravity control.

Destructive power, falls from the sky.

The symbol that destroys this world, symbol that opposes God.

The identity of the black orb is a miniature black hole that I created by manipulating gravity. There’s no way you can escape from a pull of gravity that can even distort the space. It squashes everything like a giant hand wrapping around them by focusing the gravity into one point.

After consuming everything, I destroyed the orb by clutching it in my hand.

It was a fever like it being able to dominate this world.

“Kaka. Kahahahaha!”

“Go die, really.

Reatier in front of my eye didn’t even hide her disgust with not even a scratch.

“You know fully well that powers doesn’t work on spirits. What did you want from it?”

“Kaka. I just felt like doing it. I have to use my secret move once in a while. It would be a problem if it would misfire when I need it right?”

“... so who was it that utterly destroyed [F] without using that secret move?”

At her question, I didn’t answer.

“Those guys really did have the power of God. even the War Management Committee were thinking of measures against them... but Hajime you destroyed them alone...”

“What, you’ve got a problem with that?”

“...are you serious right now?”

“I’m always serious.”

I replied.

“One year ago, when I got my powers from you, I’m sure i’ve told you. That I’m going to become the conqueror of this war.”

“... and you are isolating them from the war, because you want to use their strength?”

Half ignoring my words, Reatier diverted her gaze toward the Literature Club.

Half a year ago, five kids awakened their powers.

<Dark and Dark> Ando Jurai.

<Closed Clock> Kanzaki Tomoyo.

<Over Element> Kushikawa Hatoko.

<Pineapple> Himeki Chifuyu.

<Root of Origin> Takanashi Sayumi.

... I feel like I've got one wrong, but since I can't even remember it, it doesn't matter.

Such a good naming sense. If possible I did want to give my little sister her name myself, but there's no point whining about it now.

"From those five over there four have awakened very powerful powers. If you only consider the power of their abilities from the ranks of current <Players>, they can be considered a top class. If those four girls in there become your allies..."

"You got it all embarrassingly wrong, Reatier."

Cutting her right there, I faced my spirit who's in charge of me straight on.

"I only don't wish to include my little sister in the war. As her older brother, I've done nothing for her. If anything else, I want to protect her if I can..."

"Ah~ I'm so done with that kind of jokes. It hasn't been long time since I got to know you, but I know at least that you aren't that kind of person."

"Well, whatever."

Really, a girl without any sense of humour isn't fun at all.

"Reatier, you also got one more thing wrong. It's not those four girls who are truly scary. The scariest of them all is... Ando Jurai."

"What? You're joking. The power that guy called Ando has is garbage. It's the worst of its kind out of all players. You can only say he's got the worst luck of all."

"You still don't get it huh. Haven't I told you before? The people who rule the world are Chuunis."

I draw Ando Jurai... Guiltia Sin Jurai in my head.

A life time [Partner] and also a fateful [Enemy] that I have finally found.

"That guy will stand in front of me in the future. As the strongest... As the final boss."

"... seriously go die or something. Can't even understand you."

Reatier, who don't even understand my words in the slightest, just tutted.

I'm so used to people not understanding me, I don't even get angry.

I've never been understood

I've always lived in denial.

I've always lost against this world that kept arguing that they are the right and correct ones.

"Even if we understand each other, me and that guy are different types."

I started to speak.

"That guy is the type of chuuni who daydreams about 'If terrorist suddenly attack, how can I protect all of them'. However I was a guy who always thought of 'How can I set fire to everyone in this place'."

Similar, but fundamentally different.

Alike, but distinct twins.

Kiryu Hajime and Ando Jurai.

Kiryu Heldkaiser Luci First and Guiltia Sin Jurai.

"So Hajime. What do you want to do in the end?"

Reatier ask me suspiciously. I decided to give her a roundabout answer

"I want to become Don Quixote."

The fool, who decided to fight this world.

The person who was a great Chuunibyou, who was ridiculed, contempt, became a laughing stock from around and became humiliated. But he still fought hard for what he believed in.

".....? You want to become a mall?"

"....."

Why is this what everybody thinks of when I say Don Quixote?

"So Reatier. What's your business?"

"Ah right! I've finally found the next player for the fight!"

“Ability?”

“Unknown.”

“That’s good. That’s how Supernatural battle should be.”

“Don’t take it easy, didito. That person already stomped several other players so they’re strong. Probably same as you, who enjoys this fight.”

“Ha, I welcome them. Regardless of whom, if they cross my path... they will receive hell.”

“... here it comes. Your lame ass finishing sentence. Seriously go die. No really.”

“Kaka.”

I reversed the gravity to normal and fall from the branch. Just before hitting the ground, I activated my power again and made my weight near zero and landed softly on the ground.

I start walking with Reatier floating next to me..

“Guiltia Sin Jurai. [Endless Paradox]. And... well, hmm, the rest of you guys.”

Without looking back, I murmur softly.

“To you guys the supernatural battle is still too early. For now please go and do useless and aimless things in normal world.”

Translation Notes and References

1. [↑](#) TN The simple version uses ‘黒炎’ while the current one is ‘黒焰’
2. [↑](#) TN The pronunciation of March in japanese is Machi
3. [↑](#) TN: Keikaku means plan

Epilogue

“In the end, what did she want? That Kudo-san.”

I muttered in the club room after school. The others just tilted their heads with a “Hmm...” feeling.

Kudo-san, who came and attacked us yesterday, actually knew nothing.

She confessed that while she was receiving the Juji Gatame.

“Noooo! I’m sorry! I actually know nothing! I was just fooling around! I’m sorry NOOOOOOOOO!”

And it ended like that.

It seems as Kudo-san has awaken her power about month ago. Her power was useless on its own, she was living in a fear of this unnatural situation suddenly engulfing her life.

And about a week ago, she said a anonymous text arrive to her phone.

[People of Literature club has awaken power similar to yours].

Straight after receiving that text, Kudo-san has started to monitor our activities, and soon enough realised that we are similar to her.

But thanks to my chuuni powers being a great success, she got swept up in the mood and somehow ended up fighting us.

“I-I was scared! I suddenly awoke to this power, and I’m alone, while you had five of you! So I thought I would lose if I didn’t take drastic measures, and that’s why I initiated the attack first! So forgive me already! Nooooo, it’s gonna break!”

... It was something similar to when a new guy acts all tough and mighty at a new place so they don’t get bullied or something like that, regardless she didn’t seem like a bad person.

She also returned my *Dark and Dark* as well.

Ah I’m so glad.

I'm not gonna let you go ever again, Dark and Dark "Well, disregarding situation with Kudo-san, the real problem is this person who sent the text."

"That's right."

That person already knows of our abilities, meaning that person is involved with our awakening of supernatural powers.

"So it might be a possibility that someone made us awaken to our abilities."

When Sayumi-san said that in an uncertain tone, Hatoko, as if she's clinging onto hope, looked over here.

"Ju-kun... What shall we do? Is the reason why it was peaceful for past six month... just a coincidence? Is something going to happen from now on...?"

"....."

I couldn't say anything at all.

We are incredibly ignorant when it comes to our abilities. However much we thought about it for the past six months, all that was only a theory, nothing more.

Kudo-san wasn't our enemy, but in the near future, a real enemy might appear in front of us. It could be that we unknowingly have stepped into a dangerous world.

A fear of unknown has been placed on our shoulders now, atmosphere in this room got heavier and heavier.

"It's alright, nothing's scary if we don't know about it."

Right then.

While all high-schoolers had serious expression on their faces, Chifuyu said in her casual [Along my pace] self. She had a potato chips bag in her hand.

"Chifuyu doesn't know anything about politics, or the reason why we're born, or anything about end of the universe, but I'm still alive right now."

Then she tried to open her bag of potato chips, but ran out of her strength mid-way and went back to say her speech.

"There's lot we don't know, but we're alive."

“.....”

Everyone was suddenly dumbfounded

Such profound words in such casual tone...

“We learned something like that at school today. Unfounded fear...”

“Unfounded fear...”

Certainly Chifuyu’s words are correct. If all we could do is to speculate then there’s no reason to fuss about it. To be scared of an enemy that may or may not come, and to ruin our one and only high-school life. That’s nothing but foolishness.

“Whatever happens, we’ll be fine.”

Looking at Chifuyu who said that with her chest forward, I was a bit moved. But being moved by a grade schooler was also a bit annoying, so I just responded how I normally would.

“Kuku, you represented my thought well, Himeki Chifuyu... no, *World Create!*”

“Tsktsk” She waved her tiny finger.

“It’s not *World Create*, but *Pineapple.*”

“... You like that name do you.”

“Yup, and I want name of my power to be that.”

“Please have mercy!”

I gave my all thinking up that name!

It gives us all a sense of unity as well.

Somehow after convincing Chifuyu, I faced everyone.

“Then for now, let’s say our current course of action is ‘Carry on as usual’”

Everyone nodded in unison, looks like no one is disagreeing.

“Kuku, no reason to be afraid of this sort. If something is to happen I, Guiltia Sin Jurai, will protect you.”

I said that in coolest tone possible.

But, after keeping silence for a while, everyone just sighed.

A-Ara...? This is bit awkward.

“It’s only your words that are cool. Only your words.”

“Ando-kun is only bark and no bite after all.”

“Ju-kun is the same as always.”

“Anyway Ando, Open this for me.”

Everyone’s reaction was worse than expected. Chifuyu was the worst, dismissing me by saying ‘Anyway’...

Gloomy, I took the potato chips bag from Chifuyu and using the power of both hands, I opened... eh.

“... This bag is tough. Hngh!”

I tried again but, no luck.

“Arrrrrrrr! Ku... no use huh...”

“Hey Ando, stop being stubborn and use a modern tool instead.”

And Tomoyo hands me a pair of scissors she got from somewhere.

“N-No, I’ve come here this far. I want to open it with own my strength.”

“... Always doing unnecessary things”

“If I give up now, I’m no longer who I am!”

“Please don’t say such a quote-like line in a situation like this...”

“Ando, hurry up.”

“Ah, wait a second Chifuyu. Hyaaaaa.....”

I give all my strength into this, but however much force I exert pulling it left and right, the bag does not budge.

“Damn it! Like I’m going to give up!! Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

My strength is escaping my arms and fingers, and my entire body is screaming ‘Just give up already’. Everyone is eyeing me to say ‘It doesn’t matter anymore, so just be quiet’.

Don't make me laugh!

There's no way I can back down now!

I'm going to get stronger! Strong enough to be able to open this bag!

Limit? Screw that!

Right now, I will surpass my limit!

—Dokun.

"Uuu, oh...?"

At that moment, some kind of cog grind inside of me.

After that, black flame spark out of my body on its own. A flame that can't be compared to anything before this is being emitted out of my body.

"W-What are you thinking, activating *Dark and Dark* all of a sudden..."

Tomoyo said that in worried voice, everyone else also made shocked expression.

But I'm also one of them confused.

My *Dark and Dark* has begun changing into something that was never seen before.

T-This... This feeling of about to overcome something...

"I awakened it..."

"...What?"

"I surpassed my limit, and awakened it."

Just by my feeling... just with my instinct, I could understand what was going on.

Under my immense will, *Dark and Dark*, which lives deep inside of me, has reached its next stage.

I finally mutter a name that I thought of ever since we have awakened our powers.

“Dark and Dark --- Of the End”

“.....”

Including myself, everyone in the room was shocked into silence. And after few seconds of heavy silence...

“[RIGHT NOW?!]”

Everyone shouted in unison.

I thought it would be something like when we’re in a deep and dangerous situation... to me that situation was just a matter of being able to open a potato chips bag or not...

Danger to my dignity as a man... or something?

In the end I couldn’t even open the bag.

Please read the mood, *Dark and Dark*.

“Hey Ando, are you trying to set up for a joke or something?”

“You think I can just casually awaken it just for a joke?! No... just think of it like this. Compared to some abilities that only awaken once one or two comrades die, don’t you think mine is way more useful?”

“As expected of Ando-quality.”

“Hey Sayumi-san, what’s up with that tone. Are you trying to say that awakening my ability in one of the most weird situation is just what you expected of me?”

“But good for you Ju-kun. You have finally achieved your dream that you wrote on the primary school graduation essay. ”

“Ah yeah, thinking back, my dream during primary school was ‘To awaken’.”

“Ando, give me my potato chips back.”

“Chifuyu... can’t you at least pay more attention to me...?”

Phew...

I’ve finally awakened but... what is this weird indescribable feeling of disappointment?

A scenario where a character awakens right at the end is personally my favourite setting, but to awaken it in a calm everyday-life scene at the very very end — even calling it the epilogue, is not exciting at all.

“Hey Ando, awakening it is fine and all, but what exactly has happened?”

“Hmm, Ahh—.”

I won't know for sure without testing it, but I could understand with just my intuition what was different about this one.

The next stage of my ability *Dark and Dark* That was...

Afterwords

When and who was the one that thought up things like ability names, techniques and aliases?

That was the kind of feeling I had when I first started writing this book. In fiction, several different terminologies appear, but to the author, most of them are probably compromises. For example, when a character from a battle manga uses a new finishing move, thoughts like 'Eh? Did I think up such a stylish skill name?' has struck anyone at least once in their life hasn't it?

With that said, instead of fumbling over that part, I've decided to put great effort into describing this process. One of the main concept of this work is specifying, to the extent of my ability, who the authors of the used terminologies are. The names do not conveniently pop up in my mind or anything like that. The characters in the story all try their best diligently looking through dictionaries every night.

With that said, this is Nozomi Kouta.

I guess I can say that the theme of this work is 'Chuunibyou'. Well, it does seem a bit deep and ambiguous for such a newbie like me to handle, and in all honesty, even research after research, there simply was no end to it.

'Chuunibyou' is simply something that gets harder and harder to understand as you study it, and get further and further away if you try to chase after it. It was such an indefinite and abstract concept.

Appealing to my inner chuuni that keeps saying 'Doesn't it sound too clever to use the word 'concept'?...', below are my word of thanks to everyone.

Editor Nakamizo-sama, thank you very much for giving me such great help with this work. It's all thanks to you that this work, which have been riddled with complication, was able to see the light of the day.

Illustrator 029-sama. I truly thank you for taking this work between your busy schedule. To be able to draw such elegant visuals from only my description, I

can't help but to be amazed at your skill.

And also, the biggest thanks to all you readers who read this supernatural battle-ish/everyday life-ish story.

All right then. If fate allows, let's meet again.

Nozomi Kota.

And from next page there will be next prologue, so please enjoy it.

Kudou Mirei's State of Mind & Next

Prologue

“Haaaa.”

After school, in the Student Council room, I let out a sigh. There's no one but me in the room since there weren't any meetings or plans to meet today, but since there was work left over, I decided to remain here.

It is a bit lonely with no one here.

Maybe it's because of that feeling, but I ended up thinking about the members of the literature club, who are probably playing around lively right now.

“.....”

It has been about a month since I awoke to my power.

One day, after suddenly being engulfed by a mysterious light, I became able to use a 'power to steal power' power.

The characteristic of the power and things like its effects, as soon as the power was awakened, I was able to understand it all and what not.

No, maybe it's better to say I already knew about this power.

I don't know how to explain this, but as soon as my power was awakened inside of me, some kind of beginner's manual appeared in my head as if it was all natural..

Well, obviously it was just a quick start guide, so I still don't understand the more in-depth abilities of my power yet.

I didn't catch everything, but I think everyone in the Literature Club have the same feeling as me.

Except, unlike their powers, my power is useless on its own, so yesterday was the first time I actually used my power.

“.....”

Thinking of yesterday made me upset. My right arm where Takanashi grabbed still hurts (it didn't break so she did not fix it for me using her power).

Well I brought it on myself though, so I can't go around blaming them.

I wasn't calm and collected yesterday. I lost my cool since my identity was revealed by Ando Jurai.

... All I wanted was for them to make me part of their group.

"Why did it go like this... They are most certainly thinking of me like 'What did she want in the first place?'..."

I grabbed and pulled my hair.

But thinking about it, maybe this would be for the better.

After learning about them through a mysterious text, using my position of Student Council President, I tried to make contact with them indirectly, but thanks to Ando Jurai, I was able to shorten the distance between us quickly.

That's right.

This was all thanks to Ando Jurai.

When I observed him from afar, all I could think of him was that he was an idiot.

But after barging into their club room as an enemy, my opinion of him has changed.

After my identity was revealed, everyone in the room focused on Ando Jurai first.

As if they were waiting for his orders.

As if that man is their leader.

It's most likely that they don't even realize it themselves. Unbeknownst to them, they naturally rely on him.

That shows, that Ando Jurai is centre of that group.

I could see that those girls trust him with everything.

"Ando Jurai..."

I muttered his name quietly, and while at it, I jotted down his name on my notebook.

... and I got embarrassed, so I erased it quickly.

“A-Anyway! It’s certain that that guy isn’t someone to be careless of..”

For example, apart from uniting the girls.

Being able to look through my identity,

Although you can’t think of him as anything but a fool, all of his moves are calculated.

Being able to maximize the uses of his useless power.

In the end, it might seem like it was Kanzaki Tomoyo and Takanashi who were the real heroes of that fight, but it’s obvious that he just gave all the credit to those two at the end.

“Such an amazing man....”

Experiencing the scariness of Ando Jurai, unconsciously I held down my chest.

Since yesterday, whenever I think of him, my heart beats faster.

Can’t help but get flustered.

Not only that, my face gets all red, I space out randomly, and my chest even gets tighter suddenly.

“... Ando Jurai.”

I drew him, who’s still in that literature club right now, in my head.

And reaching into my pocket, I took out a single letter and started reading it.

It was a love letter from Ando Jurai.

“Fu, Fufu.”

I can’t help but smile.

“Ando Jurai, I’ve fallen for you!”